



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Black Sea Fleet Talks

ITAR-TASS reports that a communique has been issued from the Black Sea Fleet talks between Russia and Ukraine which states the two countries must "adhere to a moratorium on any unilateral actions complicating the situation around the Black Sea Fleet", "the sides instructed the working group to draw up the principles for preparing an agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet", and the Russian Federation delegation "has been handed a draft statement from the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet regarding the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the region of the Black Sea, and the declaration of a peace zone in the Black Sea basin..."

At a news conference, Ukrainian delegation head Vasyl Durdynets noted that "the participants fully agreed that the process of talks ought to be developed", ITAR-TASS reports. Yuriy Yarov, Russian delegation head, stated, "The atmosphere at the talks was good. There was a striving to understand and to listen to each other, which is extremely important." "So far we cannot find a common form, but we have already prepared a communique to demonstrate our aspirations to come to a single opinion."

Russian Stance on START

ITAR-TASS reports that the "all-important part of any agreement to ratify the START Treaty is the reiteration that the nuclear non-proliferation regime is not undermined." Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said that "Russia persistently works for Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Byelarus to become as soon as possible parties to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as states which do not possess this weapon." Yastrzhembskiy also noted that the Russian Foreign Ministry is "unaware that the four nuclear states of the former Soviet Union and the United States will be parties" to START negotiations.

Nuclear Warheads Sold to Iran

Russian Television, citing a London weekly, reports three nuclear warheads with capacities "ranging from 2 to 5 kilotons" "disappeared from a base in Semipalatinsk." Two of the warheads are "at the disposal of the director of the Iranian nuclear power agency" and the third has not been located but is "probably somewhere in the Near East." The newspaper claims that the warheads were sold "with the permission of Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev." Andrey Chernenko, senior Russian Security Ministry official, declined to comment on the "alleged problem concerning sovereign Kazakhstan," but noted that this issue "is under discussion."

Russian Embassies To Close

IZVESTIYA reports that under Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree, "diplomatic missions in Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Togo, and Sierra Leone will be closed in the near future." Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said that the "reduction of the number of Russian diplomatic missions abroad has no political reasons. It is prompted by purely economic considerations," reports ITAR-TASS. The spokesman went on to note that the diplomatic staff was cut by 30% and the administrative-technical staff by 15%.

Tajikistan Imposes Presidential Rule

ITAR-TASS reports that the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet introduced presidential rule in the republic. Accordingly, "President Rakhman Nabiyev was given constitutional rights to control legislative, executive and judicial branches in the republic, the right to suspend any political party and movement, to impose a moratorium on rallies and demonstrations. The functions of the parliament and its presidium were sharply curtailed." The decision was based on "sharp exacerbation of the political situation."

Two Soviet Nuclear Warheads Sold to Iran*LD3004172992 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Report by Svetlana Sorokina in the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Two Soviet nuclear warheads have been sold to Iran. This was reported by the London weekly THE EUROPEAN today. In its report, the newspaper quoted a message to the CIA from the Russian security service. Under discussion are three nuclear warheads with capacity, ranging from 2 to 5 kilotons, which allegedly disappeared from a base in Semipalatinsk. It is claimed that two warheads are at the disposal of the director of the Iranian nuclear power agency. The third warhead has not yet been found, but is probably somewhere in the Near East. Referring to the security services of France and Germany, the newspaper claims that the three nuclear warheads were sold with the permission of Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev.

As far back as 16 March, the Command of the CIS Armed Forces dismissed reports about the sale of Soviet tactical weapons to Iran.

Andrey Chernenko, a senior official of the Russian Security Ministry, told Vesti today that the ministry has had no secret correspondence with the CIA with regard to the above matter.

According to Chernenko, the publication of information like that published by the London newspaper today is simply an attempt to involve Russia in a conflict situation with nuclear tint; the purpose of this is to give interested parties an opportunity to get control over the Russian nuclear industry. According to Chernenko, however, in this particular case an alleged problem concerning sovereign Kazakhstan is under discussion and it would be tactless, to say the least, for the Russian security services to comment on the situation.

Kravchuk's Denuclearization Offer Viewed*MK3004133092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
30 Apr 92 p 1*

[Article by Mikhail Shchipanov: "In the Labyrinths of the CIS. So Give Kravchuk the Guarantees!"]

[Text] As in the song, L. Kravchuk is haggling, he's asking a higher price. On this occasion, Leonid Makarovich is inviting the West to pay for the complete "denuclearization" of Ukrainian territory by means of security guarantees: What he is saying is that following the removal of the allied nuclear armaments, the republic's defense will be catastrophically weakened to the joy of Russia and other neighbors.

At first glance, the president is seeking yet again to play for time by keeping the missiles in a state of complete uncertainty. It is known that, for Ukraine, the nuclear missiles sited on its territory are no more than a prestigious architectural adornment inasmuch as Kiev will be

unable either to make serious use of them or to maintain them in battle-worthy condition. And so no new breaches will appear in Ukrainian defenses following "denuclearization." As far as guarantees are concerned, NATO has already repeatedly let it be understood that it has no intention of revising its strategy and geography either for Budapest or—even less so—for Kiev.

So, just why is Kravchuk again asking "payment" for what he has to sell? Evidently, the cryptocommunist leadership has deemed it best to "internationalize" its conflict with Moscow without waiting to see if international sanctions would really be imposed on Ukraine. The strike was designed as a forestalling move: We are not contemplating anything against the world community, it is saying. Kravchuk's demarche coincided with the appointment of the first Ukrainian ambassador to Washington, so the address of the appeal is clearly marked.

The chief task of the "Kievan lament," however, is to draw a line under the Commonwealth, which Ukraine has long been designating the committee to share out jointly acquired property. Indeed, what sort of alliance is it at all if its formal members regard each other with suspicion by seeking protection from their partners elsewhere. All the latest maneuvers of the Ukrainian leadership are tied up in a fairly compact knot. The conclusion of the agreement with Iran on future deliveries of oil and gas, in order to ease its dependence on Russia. The declaration of Ukraine's desire to act as a bridge between Europe and the Near East. And now the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons must, according to the idea, signify also the rupture of "alliance" ties with the CIS in terms of policy and military organizational development. So there is only the fleet still to be divided up.

'Expert' Denies Problems With Nuclear Submarines*OW3004182792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1423 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Mayorov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One of the leading experts of the CIS Navy Main HQs denied the US specialists' allegation contained in one of the recent issues of the "Parade" magazine according to which the nuclear power plants installed on board the submarines of the Former Soviet Union are "imperfect" and their operation is associated with high danger.

In the opinion of the Russian expert, however, "the Russian-built nuclear submarines comply with all the international safety standards", and "in that sense they are as good as their U.S. analogues".

The Russian expert ties the publication in the "Parade" magazine with the attempts of certain U.S. military parties to "oust the CIS Submarine Fleet from the far frontiers of the World Ocean". The expert proceeds from

the premise that the transitions of Russian-U.S. relations to "partnership", and "even alliance" invokes different responses amongst the military circles of the two countries. A number of generals and senior officers who have been brought up in the spirit of confrontation are not inclined to support the new concepts. Noteworthy, by some estimates, the correlation of supporters and opponents of the "allies' relations" is approximately the same amongst the highest echelons of military command in Russia and in the United States: fifty-fifty.

'Ridiculous' Proposal Dismissed

LD3004222192 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1236 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS—Sinking nuclear reactors of submarines is madness, says chief navigator of the CIS Navy, Rear Admiral Valeriy Aleksin. In an interview, published in the May 1 issue of the newspaper "24 HOURS", he commented on an article in the American weekly *PARADE* that dealt with the problem of dumping used submarine nuclear reactors.

PARADE also reported that high-ranking Pentagon officials were worried not so much by strategic missiles of the former Soviet Union as by nuclear reactors on 150 submarines of the CIS Navy. The weekly wrote that they were nothing more than "delayed-action nuke bombs" because of what they described as low safety level.

Referring to American admirals, the weekly said the Pentagon did not want Russia, Ukraine and CIS to have the former Soviet nuclear submarines at their disposal. Therefore it proposed "sinking" them.

The proposal to sink nuclear submarines, allegedly coming from American admirals and mentioned by *PARADE*, "contradicts the international convention which bans dumping radioactive wastes on the bottom of seas and oceans", stressed Aleksin.

Speaking about the reliability of submarine reactors of the former Soviet Union, Aleksin admitted that "there were problems at a time when they were phased in".

"Regrettably, incidents occur today as well," he said. "They took place and, unfortunately, continue to take place in the fleets of all countries that have nuclear-powered vessels."

Aleksin believes that "neither we, nor the United States or Britain" have reliable utilisation technologies. This problem is global.

As for the publication in *PARADE*, the rear-admiral said, it is the imagination of incompetent authors of the magazine. "I personally know many U.S. top-ranking Navy officials. They are professionals. Therefore I doubt that the ridiculous proposal to dump all our nuclear submarines could come from them," Aleksin concluded.

Storage Facility Seen as Potential Chernobyl

PM3004153192 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Video report from Yekaterinburg by V. Kozinets, B. Lednev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Kozinets report over video of isotope depot] There is no limit to Russian carelessness. Five kilometers from Koltsovo airport, practically within the Yekaterinburg city limits, 40 tonnes of metallic sodium are being stored in the open air at the "Izotop" interoblast enterprise. Any schoolboy can tell you that if moisture penetrates the canisters there will be an explosion like a 40-tonne bomb going off. As you can see, we weren't allowed into the base so we had to film from a different angle. The alarm was raised by the local evening newspaper. It cited the firm's Director Bulanov, who was quick to reassure people that everything conforms to the state standard. However, there are other opinions.

[A. Vorobyev, enterprise chief engineer] The director has deceived the public. The state standard specifies that metallic sodium must be stored in closed premises and must not be stored together with acids, water, and other hazardous substances.

[Kozinets] Why is that?

[Vorobyev] A small enterprise gave us an interest-free loan of 1 million rubles. And I see an additional danger in the fact that radioactive isotopes are stored near the canisters. If there is an explosion it is highly probable that we will have radioactive fallout like at Chernobyl. [video shows two unidentified men at "Izotop" enterprise, containers in open air, interview with engineer against backdrop of unidentified building]

Disarmament Expert Cited on Republics' Arms

PM3004115192 Moscow *IZVESTIYA in Russian*
30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with disarmament expert Aleksandr Savelev by Sergey Guk; place and date not given: "Ukraine and Kazakhstan 'Are Privatizing' CIS Nuclear Arsenals"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Recent statements by President Nursultan Nazarbayev (guaranteeing Kazakhstan's security against nuclear attacks from the United States, Russia, or China) and Leonid Kravchuk (it is for Ukraine to decide what part of the armed forces deployed on its territory, including strategic forces, should be subordinated to the unified command) inevitably raise the question: Does anything remain of the CIS leaders' accords, or have all the states decided to follow separate paths? Will the drawn-out dispute concerning nuclear weapons—a problem that is sending Western politicians into a cold sweat—ever be resolved? For an answer to this and other questions, *IZVESTIYA* turned to disarmament expert Aleksandr Savelev, vice president of the Russian

National Security and Strategic Studies Institute and participant in the strategic offensive arms talks.

[Savelev] This problem is bringing not just the West out in a cold sweat. At first it seemed that they all agreed on everything: It was necessary gradually to transfer nuclear weapons to Russia's territory. During the transitional period these weapons were to be under the CIS unified command and the "nuclear button" was to remain in the hands of the Russian president, who pledged "not to use" the button without the sanction of the heads of Ukraine, Byelorussia, and Kazakhstan.

However, judging by the statements of L. Kravchuk and N. Nazarbayev, both leaders now regard the nuclear weapons that happen to be on their territory as theirs. At the same time Kiev is claiming a special nuclear status for itself: Until Ukraine gets its own button, the nuclear arms deployed on its territory remain "occupation forces," L. Kravchuk has only just told a REUTER correspondent. Essentially, both republics currently are trying to provisionally "privatize" the unified nuclear arsenals.

[Guk] Yet both Nazarbayev and Kravchuk are persistently talking about a threat; is this entirely unfounded?

[Savelev] Frankly speaking, they see this threat as emanating primarily from Russia, and therefore they are asking the West to guarantee their security. No one is denying that the former Union has entered a "dense seam" of general instability, but let us not forget that the whole world would have sounded the alarm long ago if Russia had given the least reason for it to be suspected of any kind of aggressive intentions, and in particular the threat to use nuclear weapons.

[Guk] Clearly, both leaders are convinced that having nuclear status would enhance their prestige in the world?

[Savelev] Obviously, but if nuclear weapons were capable of contributing to states' prosperity, the USSR would have become the richest country in the world long ago. Or perhaps they are hoping that the West will recognize their nuclear status without further ado, and subsequently reward them with generous economic aid for renouncing it. I have no idea; they know better. I know only one thing: The support of the world community is not based on "nuclear criteria."

[Guk] It would be interesting to know what the Russian leadership is thinking.

[Savelev] That is a question that interests the whole world today. Russia's protracted silence can be interpreted unequivocally as actual admission that the "great

sharing out" of the nuclear arsenals of the former Union has begun. I understand that Moscow is facing an extremely difficult choice, but a decision can be postponed no longer. Russia, too, must accept its share of the responsibility.

Absence of Nuclear Arms at Tartu Base Confirmed

OW2704130992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1210 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Participants in the Pjarnu, Estonia, conference on nuclear security that closed Sunday [26 April] visited a strategic aviation CIS base in Tartu and made sure it does not contain any nuclear weapons.

Russian delegation member Colonel Valery Yarinich said at the news conference on the results of the work of the conference that "nuclear arms on the territory of the former USSR are under reliable control and its unsanctioned use is out of the question." The international conference in Pjarnu entitled "The influence of the USSR Breakup on the possibility of non-sanctioned or accidental use of nuclear arms" was attended by Russian, U.S., West European, Baltic, Ukrainian and Kazakh experts.

New Particle Accelerator Developed at Dubna

PM3004095192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Zaritovskiy: "Sensation in Dubna"]

[Text] A new sensation with world significance has recently been produced at the Joint Nuclear Research Institute in the city of Dubna, where up to now an extremely large proton synchrophasotron—the outstanding achievement of scientific thought in the mid-fifties—has been successfully operating. The people responsible for producing this sensation were the High Energy Laboratory collective headed by Academician Aleksandr Baldin. Under his direction, a unique accelerator—a nuclotron—which is fully entitled to be called a new-generation research instrument has been created here.

Compared to its elder brother—the synchrophasotron—it seems simply lilliputian. Nevertheless, it can be used to accelerate the nuclei of all the elements in Mendeleyev's table. It is notable that the cost per unit of accelerated elementary particle beam energy in the nuclotron is less than half what it is in other modern synchrophasotrons. However, the total cost of constructing the new accelerator that produces a final nuclear energy of 7 gigaelectron volts per nucleon comes to the relatively small sum of approximately 10 million rubles.

Turkey's Demirel Continues Central Asia Tour

LD2904203192 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 29 Apr 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Commentator Ioffe] The trip of Suleyman Demirel, Turkish prime minister, to the south-east of the CIS has already taken in Tashkent, Bishkek, and Alma-Ata. Ahead lie Ashkhabad and Baku. The Turkish leader left to reap the fully ripe fruits. Central Asia and Azerbaijan are strongly drawn to Turkey, as the peak of a market economy and democratic development in the Islamic world. At the same time Turkey is a secular state and a NATO member. Large credits are being allocated in the course of the present visit. The rapprochement with Turkey and its help are trumps for those Central Asian forces who speak against Islamic fundamentalism.

This weakens Iran's potential chance in this region. Nevertheless, Tehran does not give up counting on Shiites in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, which are closer to it as far as religion goes. Demirel's present visit coincided with a visit of Iran's government delegation to Turkmenistan.

[Announcer Gurnov] Turkey's undoubted successes leave Russia in the shade for the time being. Additional activation would not do its diplomacy in the region any harm, especially in Alma-Ata and Bishkek where it has optimal chances.

Tour Examined

PM3004141392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Andrey Kamorin: "Turkish Prime Minister Urges Central Asia To Quit Ruble Area"]

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's tour of a number of Central Asian states is clearly more than an ordinary "courtesy visit" and could have far-reaching consequences for economic and political development in that part of the CIS.

To all appearances, Turkey is seriously intent on strengthening its influence in the Commonwealth's Muslim republics and is prepared to invest large sums to attain that goal. Demirel has already promised Uzbekistan credits to the tune of \$500 million on terms that are yet to be discussed. Another \$75 million in the form of export credits and preferential loans for the purchase of Turkish goods have been offered to Kyrgyzstan. It appears that Demirel will continue to distribute "Easter gifts" on the remaining stops in his Central Asian tour.

Addressing journalists in Bishkek, the Turkish premier made a statement which will exercise the analysts' minds for some time yet. "The Soviet empire has collapsed, while leaving the independent republics under the ruble's sway," S. Demirel said. "We are trying to create

a new world for these people and we believe that other countries should help them too."

It is hard to say at the moment what kind of "pill" is hidden beneath the smooth diplomatic coating of this statement. The most radical foreign commentators see it as a call for the CIS Muslim countries' withdrawal from the ruble area, although most observers consider this interpretation to be too hasty.

Be that as it may, Demirel's sensational utterance was made for a specific reason: Turkey is proposing the creation of a new international finance organization—a development bank for Central Asia and the Caucasus. It was announced that Uzbek President Islam Karimov had already approved the idea and empowered Demirel to hold consultations on the matter.

According to statements by experts accompanying the Turkish premier, the Asian Development Bank could provide the model for this bank, and it is planned to site the new organization's headquarters in Ankara. In this way Turkey will acquire a powerful new means of influencing the course of the economic reform in this part of the CIS. Although representatives of the Turkish Foreign Ministry hastened to assert that Turkey regards "relations with all the Commonwealth republics as equally important," it is quite clear that there is a real "Muslim slant."

It is also interesting that the proposals on credit and the plans for founding the development bank for Central Asia and the Caucasus have been presented by Turkey now that the CIS states have joined the IMF. It is not impossible that Demirel's generosity is a sign not only to the Central Asian leaders, but also to the Western leaders, an appeal to them to consider Turkey's interests in the region.

Effects of Afghan Events in Central Asia Viewed

LD0105093892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1305 GMT
26 Apr 92

[From the "Panorama" program presented by Dmitriy Kiselev]

[Excerpts] Afghan President Najibollah is at least the seventh leader who can regard himself as a victim of Gorbachev's perestroika. Longstanding allies of Moscow fell from power once they were deprived of Soviet support. Honecker in the GDR, Jaruzelski in Poland, Zhivkov in Bulgaria, Husak in Czechoslovakia, Ceausescu in Romania, Mengistu Haile Mariam in Ethiopia are examples. Now the opposition is coming to power in Afghanistan too and life there will obviously be different from now on.

[Commentator Mikhail Osokin] [passage omitted] Many people in Afghanistan are also worried about interethnic problems. Al-Mas'ud and the other northern leaders are Tajiks. Hekmatyar and his allies represent Pathan tribes.

The Pathans have traditionally been regarded as the ruling ethnic group in Afghanistan. But in recent times Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkmen, and other national minorities have been expressing increasingly manifest reluctance to go on tolerating Pathan domination. While Soviet troops were still in Afghanistan, these tribal contradictions among the mujahedin remained in the background. For as long as the mujahedin had a common enemy, the struggle against that enemy facilitated the retention of relative unity. [passage omitted]

Hair seems to be standing on end at the moment in a number of different cities and countries. For many years the Iranians and Pakistanis, vying for influence in Afghanistan, encouraged and supported rival mujahedin groupings. They could now experience the unwelcome consequences of that policy. Tehran is worried that the increased political role of ethnic minorities in Afghanistan could stimulate such minorities in Iran itself. Pakistan is apprehensive that the Pathan leaders will remember their longstanding ambition to set up an independent state straddling the borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Some analysts note that the establishment of an Islamic government in Kabul could inspire fundamentalists in wide tracts of territory from the Near East to Central Asia.

In Central Asia, in the former Soviet Republics, the authorities are, evidently, worried not just by the possible upsurge of religious movements. Now that northern Afghanistan has come under the control of the Tajik partisan commander, al-Mas'ud, a new situation has emerged in the area bordering on the former USSR. Many observers are now wondering whether al-Mas'ud's interest is confined to Afghan territory proper, or whether this interest extends northwards, to ties with Tajikistan and the creation of a powerful Tajik state.

[Kiselev] During 10 years of war in Afghanistan about 14,000 of our servicemen were killed. For a long time the authorities hushed up our losses in Afghanistan. They feared that the publication of these figures would cause uproar here. Paradoxically, we do not get worked up by the far greater losses which occur on our roads. About 70,000 people die every year on the roads of the former Union. This means that we have an Afghanistan here once every three months. Our roads are awash with blood. When I say we do not get worked up, I mean only one thing. Public debate is not focusing on this problem. Things are different in other states, in Scandinavia for instance. [passage omitted]

IMF Allocates SDR Quotas to CIS States

LD3004215892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1030 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington, April 30 TASS—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank decided at its spring sessions in the beginning of this week to admit most of the former Soviet republics into these organisations.

The IMF board of governors decided to assign the following quotas to new independent states (the IMF uses special drawing rights as the unit of settlement, one SDR [special drawing right] was equal to 1.3736 U.S. dollars as of April 27).

Azerbaijan—SDR 78 million (0.08 per cent of the total amount) or 106.86 million dollars,

Armenia—SDR 45 million (0.05 per cent), 61.65 million dollars,

Byelarus—SDR 187 million (0.2 per cent), 256.19 million dollars,

Georgia—SDR 74 million (0.08 per cent), 101.38 million dollars,

Kazakhstan—SDR 165 million (0.17 per cent), 226.05 million dollars,

Kyrgyzstan—SDR 43 million (0.04 per cent), 58.91 million dollars,

Latvia—SDR 61 million (0.06 per cent), 83.57 million dollars,

Lithuania—SDR 69 million (0.07 per cent), 94.53 million dollars,

Moldova—SDR 60 million (0.06 per cent), 82.2 million dollars,

Russia—SDR 2,876 million (3 per cent), 3,940.12 million dollars,

Tajikistan—SDR 40 million (0.04 per cent), 54.8 million dollars,

Turkmenistan—SDR 32 million (0.03 per cent), 43.84 million dollars,

Ukraine—SDR 665 million (0.69 per cent), 911.05 million dollars

Uzbekistan—SDR 133 million (0.14 per cent), 182.21 million dollars,

Estonia—SDR 31 million (0.03 per cent), 42.47 million dollars.

The value of each country's quota is equal to its subscription which is payable in full to the fund. The quota is the main element of its financial and organisational relations with the IMF. It determines the number of votes at the IMF (250 plus one vote for each SDR 100,000 of the quota) during the election of its executive and taking important decisions by the directorate and the board of governors. The quota determines the maximum access by a member to the fund's assets and its share in SDR allocation (22.7 per cent of the quota should be paid by each country in SDR and other currency determined by the fund, the remaining portion in national currency).

Black Sea Fleet

Further on Black Sea Fleet Talks in Odessa

Communique Issued on Progress

LD3004152292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1445 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—“Adhere to a moratorium on any unilateral actions complicating the situation around the Black Sea Fleet.” Such an appeal is contained in the joint communique signed in Odessa today on the results of the talks between the state delegations of the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet. Russia's delegation was headed by Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and Ukraine's delegation was headed by Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet.

“The sides instructed the working group to draw up the principles for preparing an agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet”, the communique notes.

The participants in the talks “stressed the importance of implementing the civic, political, and socio-economic rights of the Black Sea Fleet personnel, workers, and officials, members of their families, and naval pensioners, regardless of their ethnic background or citizenship.”

“The Russian Federation delegation,” the document notes, “has been handed a draft statement from the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet regarding the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the region of the Black Sea, and the declaration of a peace zone in the Black Sea basin, which has been received with interest and which will be passed onto the committees of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.”

During the talks, provisional agreement was reached on holding the next meeting in the middle of May this year in the town of Dagomys (south of Russia).

Durdynets, Yarov Hold News Conference

LD3004171792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Odessa, 30 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The first round of talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations ended in Odessa today. The heads of delegations—Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet—held a news conference immediately after the talks.

Vasyl Durdynets noted that the Ukrainian delegation prepared thoroughly for this meeting. He said that the meeting was useful, because despite everything, the talks began and the sides started to examine the issue of the Black Sea Fleet. They expressed their interest in this

meeting yielding results. But the Ukrainian side thinks that one should not rush into a final result because the Black Sea Fleet issue is a complicated one.

Durdynets noted that “the participants fully agreed that the process of talks ought to be developed.” The meeting in Odessa was also important because the sides were explicit with regard to their view of the issue. The Ukrainian position is known, Durdynets continued; it was also set forth by the Ukrainian president in his statements. The Ukrainian delegation head believes that working groups will carry on working on individual points.

The Ukrainian side views the issue of the Black Sea Fleet in the context of every sovereign state having the right to set up their own armed forces, including the Navy, and it has a right to have a part of the Navy. Durdynets also stressed that Ukraine does not view the issue of the Black Sea Fleet simply as a division of ships. It realizes its responsibility for the lives of people serving on these ships and in supply depots, for the lives of their families, and so on and so forth. He recollected the measures for the social protection of the servicemen, including the Navy, which Ukraine is undertaking today.

Durdynets stressed that Ukraine's foreign policy priority is the development of friendly relations with Russia, with respect for the sovereign rights of each state.

Then Yuriy Yarov, head of the Russian delegation, put forward his point of view. He also recalled that one must not lose sight of the historical ties between the two fraternal peoples. The atmosphere at the talks was good. There was a striving to understand and to listen to each other, which is extremely important.

The head of the Russian delegation said that “so far we cannot find a common form, but we have already prepared a communique to demonstrate our aspirations to come to a single opinion. We will do everything possible to suspend the process of escalation and supercharging tension around the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, while the parties search for a mutually acceptable political solution.” He recalled that the Russian side's stance examines the question of the Black Sea Fleet within the context of the protocol signed by Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk on the question of the Black Sea Fleet—as a fleet which carries out the tasks of the CIS.

Yuriy Yarov recalled that in accordance with this protocol, the navy of the former USSR belongs to the Commonwealth, and that unilateral decisions on its fate are unnecessary. He added that the Russian side considers that ways will be found to resolve the problem, which has arisen. We intend to search for this solution at the second stage of talks. “We respect the right of each state to its own armed forces,” the leader of the Russian delegation remarked.

For my part, Yarov said, we will appeal to the personnel, citizens, and various organizations not to undertake any actions whatsoever which complicate the situation

around the Black Sea Fleet. Yarov noted that it is most likely the second meeting will be held in the middle of May in Dagomys or, he noted, in Odessa.

A whole range of questions were aired at the news conference, but basically they concerned aspects already known, connected with various sides of the discussion of the problem in the media around the Black Sea Fleet. However, we would like to draw attention to a question by a correspondent of the Kiev newspaper UYADOVYY KURYER (GOVERNMENT COURIER), who asked whether the delegations possess any information on the sale of ships of the Black Sea Fleet abroad.

Yarov replied that the Russian side does not possess such information, and that such unilateral actions are impermissible. Durdynets did not undertake to categorically deny the sale of ships. That is, he made it understood that the Ukrainian side knows some details, which he did not give here.

'Mutual Understanding' Achieved

LD3004174492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Correspondent A. Gerasimov report from Odessa; from the "Novosti" newscast presented by Tatyana Mitkova—recorded]

[Text] [Mitkova] Let us get back to real politics. The fate of the Black Sea Fleet is in the hands of the people who now are concluding the latest round of talks on the subject in Odessa. Evidently, it will not be the last.

[Gerasimov] As observers imagined, the second day of talks failed to clarify the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. Incidentally, the Ukrainian and Russian delegations are in a very peaceable mood, and are ready for the talks to continue as soon as possible. Clearly, the second half of the naval match will start in mid-May.

[Russian delegation head Yu. Yarov] First and foremost, the situation is normal and we have mutual understanding. We understand the responsibility that lies with us. We are fully determined to follow our own paths. I think we will find a solution.

[Ukrainian delegation head V. Durdynets] We agreed before the start of the talks and during the preparations for them that if representatives from the headquarters of the CIS Naval Forces are to attend, they are not, above all, participants in the talks. As is known, the talks are being held between the state delegations from Ukraine and the Russian Federation. They are acting as consultants.

[Yarov] They sit at the table separately.

[Gerasimov] What are the Crimean representatives doing?

[Yarov] They are part of the Ukrainian state delegation.

[Gerasimov] The cordial atmosphere at the talks and the sluggishness of their participants provides grounds for saying that the current situation with regard to the Black Sea Fleet suits both of the high contracting parties. Ukraine, which wants to own the whole of the Black Sea Fleet, probably is unable for the time being to finance it fully, while Russia, which champions the defense capability of the CIS, is completely satisfied with the present state of affairs, since pending a definitive elucidation of relations over the matter between the two republics, the Black Sea Fleet will be controlled from Moscow.

Further on Remarks

LD3004193892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1348 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report by station correspondent Sergey Fateyev from Odessa on second day of talks on Black Sea Fleet, including recorded interviews with Vasyl Vasilevich Durdynets, head of the Ukrainian delegation to the talks, and Yuriy Fedorovich Yarov, head of the Russian delegation to the talks, by Fateyev following news conference]

[Text] [Announcer] Today is the second day of talks between delegations of Russia and Ukraine on the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. The talks are taking place in Odessa, and our correspondent Sergey Fateyev is live on the line from there now. Over to you.

[Fateyev] Yes, good day. I have to correct you; the talks have already ended. They ended literally an hour ago with a final news conference. It was the final and only news conference for correspondents I have to say. There are around 100 correspondents here. The results of the first round of talks were dealt with at the news conference.

[Announcer] Fine, we will find out what happened.

[Fateyev] I stress it was the first round. As we understood from the contents of the news conference and the comments made there by the heads of the delegations—Vasyl Vasilevich Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, and Yuriy Fedorovich Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet—both sides in effect set out their view of the problems of the Black Sea Fleet in a fairly precise fashion, and for the first time face to face.

[Announcer] Did they find they spoke the same language?

[Fateyev] Yes indeed. Both delegations and delegation heads stressed that they found they were speaking the same language, despite the fact that the problem was a very complex one and could not be resolved in one day and at one sitting, as it were, that it was not just a question of ships but also of people and those who serve in the Black Sea Fleet, and that there was a whole package of problems associated with that. I will not go into the differences which emerged, and which both the

delegation heads talked about. These problems and differences remain. Nevertheless, the most important conclusion was that an exchange of views has started. Negotiations have started. The practical political issue of tackling the problems of the Black Sea Fleet has begun.

To give you a taste of the atmosphere and mood at the news conference, I interviewed the delegation heads—Vasyl Vasylevich Durdynets and Yuriy Fedorovich Yarov—on the results of the news conference. Here, first, is what Vasyl Vasylevich Durdynets said to me.

Do you hope for a successful outcome to the talks in the future?

[Durdynets] I believe in it. If I did not, we would not have come here. So both at the airport on arrival in Odessa and during our work yesterday and today—and you will have felt it from the way our news conference went—the mood of our state delegation has been that we should start the process, pursue it, and reach a good result. I have to say that the talks were difficult because the fundamental matters which need to be resolved by us politicians at state level have to be tackled in a normal and businesslike atmosphere. We have made a start. We believe that on no account must we spin things out, and I said this several times during our talks. We must work on the documents without letting things drag on, so that we can sign an agreement between our states in the near future.

[Fateyev] (Does the Russian delegation) recognize that Ukraine is as much the legal inheritor of the former Soviet Union's fleet as Russia itself?

[Durdynets] That is a separate question. We discussed it as well. We have differences of view on this. I would not like to discuss this topic.

[Yarov] We are hoping for rapid headway on these matters, although the problems that stand in the way are somewhat complicated. If another formula is found—not to share out the Fleet but to sort out the problem a little differently, and there are a number of possibilities here, but I would not like to discuss them—a way out will be quickly found. So we vest very much hope in the 15 May meeting between the presidents.

[Fateyev] I think the answers given by Vasyl Durdynets and Yuriy Yarov will have given you an idea of the atmosphere and just how things stand with regard to tackling these matters. I would just like to say that it is very important that both sides have agreed that during the period of negotiations, which may last several weeks, perhaps a month or two, neither Ukraine nor Russia should make any unilateral decisions, actions, or moves that could destabilize the situation with regard to tackling the problems of the Black Sea Fleet.

[Announcer] As Yuriy Fedorovich Yarov said, there is to be a meeting of the presidents in Tashkent on the 15th. No doubt there will be a serious discussion of this there as well.

[Fateyev] Yes, and these talks have been a very good basis for ensuring that the talks at presidential level should proceed in the direction about which all those familiar with the problem of the Black Sea Fleet are talking and thinking today.

Ukraine TV Interviews Durdynets

LD3004230892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 2010 GMT
30 Apr 92

[Video interview with Vasyl Durdynets, head of the Ukrainian delegation to the Black Sea Fleet talks held in Odessa 29-30 April, by unidentified Ukrainian Television correspondent on 30 April at Kiev Airport for Ukrainian Television and shown by Moscow Ostankino Television; Durdynets speaks in Ukrainian with superimposed Russian translation; interview introduced by Ukrainian Television News presenter Mykola Knyazitskiy in conversation with "Novosti" presenter Tatyana Mitkova; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Mitkova] Now on the line with the Ostankino First Channel News studio is Mykola Knyazitskiy, presenter of Ukraine's TV news. [Video shows Knyazitskiy in Kiev and Mitkova in Moscow, shown on split screen]

[Mitkova] Good evening!

[Knyazitskiy] Good evening!

[Mitkova] Mykola, is there any reaction yet from Kiev to the talks in Odessa?

[Knyazitskiy] On the whole, yes. Many people were waiting for these talks and the first reaction came after the first day of talks, that is to say as early as yesterday. All newspapers wrote that the talks had started but that no specific agreements had been achieved at these talks. Virtually all Ukrainian newspapers every day raised the topic of the Black Sea Fleet, historical roots are brought up, and it is being argued that as long ago as the 16th century the Black Sea Fleet was Ukrainian, and that it was precisely the Ukrainian Cossacks who were the first to found a fleet on the Black Sea, in particular in Crimea.

As far as yesterday's talks are concerned, the first results of this visit were summed up today by Vasyl Durdynets in an interview with our correspondent, and we can now watch it.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Video Shows Ukrainian television footage of Durdynets being interviewed in Ukrainian next to plane] At the news conference which took place a few hours ago it was said that further talks would be based on the 16 January protocol, signed by the CIS heads of state, to the effect that the Fleet is strategic apart from the part that will go to Ukraine. Does this not mean a departure from the Minsk agreement of the CIS heads of state, which gives Ukraine itself the right to determine which formations on its territory are strategic and which are not?

[Durdynets] This is indeed the case. The Russian delegation insisted on this, and they were constantly producing this protocol, saying, you see, your president signed this. But we said that apart from this protocol there are other agreements also signed at the highest level. Second, we proceed from the fact that our approaches are based on our international norms, on international law, on interstate relations, and third, on agreements between Ukraine and Russia, and on our national legislation.

During the talks we tried to explain this precisely. Moreover, we handed over eight of our principles, on the basis of which an agreement could be signed on the future of the Black Sea Fleet.

[Mitkova] What are these eight principles? Could you not tell us in somewhat greater detail?

[Knyazitskiy] The principles were set out by people's deputy Pilipchuk, member of the Presidium of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet, in our program. He said that a newly formed country is entitled to everything situated on its territory in accordance with the UN conventions of the 1960's, while other countries which lay claim to some or other part of the property must try to prove this. It is not Ukraine which must prove that the Black Sea Fleet belongs to it. This is the first thing. Second, almost all the newspapers in Ukraine are writing about—and this is very difficult to dispute—the fact that what Ukraine invested in the Union share—this was also confirmed in previous agreements by the CIS heads of state—is 17 percent of all the property of the former Union. The Black Sea Fleet does not make up even 10 percent of the entire Navy.

Thus, according to Deputy Pilipchuk, who was on our program, Ukraine could lay claim to the Black Sea and Baltic Fleets, but it does not do this. It lays claim only to that part of the Black Sea Fleet which is situated on its territory.

Further on Fleet Officers Meeting in Sevastopol

LD3004213192 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Yesterday a meeting of officers of the Black Sea Fleet was held in Sevastopol. The issue of increasing the role and the personal responsibility of the fleet's officer corps for ensuring combat readiness, military discipline and guaranteeing the stability of multiethnic military collectives was discussed.

Admiral Kasatonov, Commander of the Black Sea Fleet, delivered a speech.

The meeting passed a resolution approving the current activities of the fleet's command and military council. It called on the entire officer corps to take no unilateral steps relating to the swearing of the oath and the military marine symbol until a political solution is adopted on the fate of the Fleet.

By way of conclusion, our correspondent adds that he and other journalists were not permitted into the officers' meeting. Officers delegated by the Sevastopol branch of the Union of Ukrainian Officers were also not permitted to attend the meeting.

Commonwealth

May Day Celebrations Held Throughout CIS

LD0105090392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Reports reaching us in the editorial office show that we are marking May Day this year for the first time not in a single formation, as previously, but in different ways, as prompted by beliefs, tastes, and necessity. The festival has already begun in Moscow's Manazh Square. Gathered there are young citizens—school children and the residents of children's homes. Today they will be meeting their favorite cartoon characters, who, the organizers promise, will fly in by helicopter. An actual rally, conducted by the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions, has started by the entrance to the Gorkiy Park of Culture and Rest.

Supporters of the Working Russia, Working Moscow, and Unity movements are assembling in the capital's October Square. Their rally is in Red Square at midday.

In Kazakhstan, it has been decided to mark May Day as a festival of the whole people. It was intended to hold ceremonial processions and rallies in the republic's towns today, but rainy weather has intervened. In Ukraine, this year's May Day will take place under the motto of the socioeconomic protection for the working people. In connection with the difficult financial situation, the Poltava Oblast soviet has decided not to stage large-scale events today. Labor collectives intend to hold May Day gatherings today. Associations of sectoral trade unions in Minsk Oblast are organizing a rally in the main square of the Byelarusian capital. Among the slogans is: Allow people to earn a living!

I remind you that, on the eve of the festival, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Byelarus adopted a decision introducing a minimum wage of 1,000 rubles from 1 May. May Day has been declared a festive, but working, day in Tajikistan. Ceremonial meetings and May Day gatherings will be held in labor collectives after work.

Draft Agreement on Sharing USSR Property

LD3004161892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1431 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By KAZTAG-TASS correspondent Vladimir Cherkizov]

[Text] Alma Ata April 30 TASS—A draft agreement on legal succession to the former USSR's state property has been drafted during a meeting of heads of state property committees from Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine, which ended here today.

However, there are quite a few reservations in the document. Russian representatives, for instance, believe there is no sense in sharing "money assets and other valuables", since the long since dissolved central ministries and departments simply do not have such means. Ukraine believes it is impossible to share buildings and structures of historical, architectural or cultural value, as well as those that were built before the advent of the USSR. Byelarus resents the fact that the draft does not mention legal succession to maritime shipping, atomic industry, and space research establishments.

The meeting merely compiled protocol records on remaining problems, outlining the directions of further work. It has been agreed to set up a working team charged with the coordination of work on problems linked with the administration of property, its denationalisation and privatisation. Its main task is to pursue a concerted economic policy in these domains, to launch joint ventures, joint-stock societies and other market structures, and to resolve mutual property claims.

'Sorrow', 'Bitterness' Remain

LD3004214692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 gmt
30 Apr 92

[Report over video by correspondent V. Anatonov;
From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting between groups of experts from the CIS member-countries has ended in Alma-Ata. It has been discussing issues relating to the distribution of property on the territory of the former Union.

[Antonov] Seven republics of the Commonwealth states are laying claims to a proportion of the former Union's property, which used to be indissoluble and indivisible. The whole question is determining the size of this proportion, and indeed there is some dividing to be done. For example, Kazakhstan has 169 enterprises, organizations, and establishments on the territory of Russia alone.

It is clear that there is a need to divide as the separation has already been drawn up. But how? Three versions of an agreement have been proposed on legal succession with regard to state property on the territory of the former USSR. Each of them was discussed article by article, and each article was discussed scrupulously and from principled positions. None wanted to give way. Fortunately, the participants in the Alma-Ata meeting parted peacefully on the whole.

An accord regarding the division of the property which was common some time ago has been achieved in the form of a draft agreement. It will be examined by leaders of the states with the participation of ministries and

departments who have a vested interest. Then it will be submitted to the Council of the Heads of State.

However, despite the general outcome of the Alma-Ata meeting, a feeling of sorrow and even of some bitterness remains, possibly as with any divorce case, but here this feeling is stronger as it is our Union that is being shared out.

[Announcer] In the process of the talks many contradictions have come to light: Russia opposes the division of monetary assets and other valuables of the Union as there is simply nothing left of them; Ukraine opposes the distribution of buildings which are of some historic value; Byelarus would have liked to include sea transport, the nuclear industry, and space in the list of the property to be distributed.

Defense Officials Discuss Tashkent Documents

PM3004143592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 1

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin report:
"Meeting of Defense Ministry Representatives"]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Apr—Certain progress has been achieved today at the session of the plenipotentiary representatives of Commonwealth countries' defense departments which began Tuesday [28 April] at the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command. As already reported, the aim of this working meeting is to coordinate and prepare documents on military questions to be submitted to the 15 May CIS summit meeting in Tashkent.

Before the lunch break the delegates representing all Commonwealth countries except Moldova managed to reach a consensus on quite a wide range of questions which it is proposed to submit to the Council of Heads of State for discussion. Thus, draft agreements have already been signed at the level of experts on the procedure for providing pensions for and insuring servicemen and members of their families, on organizing medical provision, on military shipments, on training draftees for the CIS Joint Armed Forces, on information support for the system of controlling and protecting military secrets, on the procedure for utilizing the radio spectrum, and some others. A protocol on the Commonwealth peacekeeping group drafted in accordance with the decisions adopted at the 20 March CIS summit meeting has also been signed.

Some of these documents were signed with more or less considerable amendments. Some of the drafts, including the draft on the procedure for transferring contributions into a unified military budget, have been referred for additional work. The draft agreement on training officers for the CIS Joint Armed Forces has been removed from discussion. It is supposed that this problem will more easily be solved through the conclusion of appropriate bilateral treaties. Judging from the experience of the preceding months, all the draft agreements that have now been signed must be initialed by the

Commonwealth countries' defense ministers prior to discussion at heads of state level.

Out of the "package" of documents which it is proposed to call to the attention of the Council of Heads of State, during the morning it was possible to agree only the draft agreements on chemical weapons and law-enforcement organs in the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Documents Detailed

PM2904151192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 1

[Report by Major A. Yegorov: "En Route To Tashkent"]

[Text] The scheduled working meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of the defense ministries and defense departments of Commonwealth countries started on 28 April. Its aim is to coordinate and prepare documents on military issues to be submitted to the session of heads of state and government in Tashkent on 15 May.

Representatives of all the states, apart from the Republic of Moldova, are taking part in the meeting. The Republic of Georgia defense minister has come to Moscow as an observer.

As was reported at the CIS Joint Armed Forces press center, participants have to discuss around two dozen documents on the most varied issues of military organizational development and on legal and social problems during their work. The package of documents is made up as follows: a draft decision confirming a unified budget for defense and the upkeep of the Joint Armed Forces for 1992; a draft Protocol on Confirming the List of Military Formations and Installations Included Within the Commonwealth Strategic Forces; a draft Treaty on Collective Security; a draft Agreement on a Unified System of Air and Space Defense; draft agreements on the principles and procedure governing fulfillment of the START and CFE Treaties; plus draft documents on chemical weapons, training of draftees and officers for the CIS Joint Armed Forces, social issues, and pension and medical provision for those discharged from military service.

Military

Deputy Commander Interviewed on Transcaucasus

LD2904233192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT
29 Apr 92

[Interview with S.U. Beppayev, deputy commander in chief of the Transcaucasus Military District, by correspondent N. Gongadze at an unidentified airfield—recorded; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Gongadze] Following the withdrawal of Russia's Interior troops from Tskhinvali, this is where part of the

Transcaucasus Military District is stationed, as before. These are helicopter, engineering, and sapper regiments. Their mission is to ensure the inviolability of the outer borders of the Transcaucasus. Although they are neutral in the conflict, last week alone they were subjected to armed attacks three times.

[Beppayev] After the attack and savage beating of a sentry on duty, we were given the command to use our weapons unconditionally against all attackers. The last attack was by three people against our housing garrison; one was killed and two were detained. They were all of Ossetian nationality.

There are two aims here. The first is the main one, the political one: to heat up the situation even more in this explosive region. The second is evidently a local one: to get weapons.

[Gongadze] The Confederation of Mountain Peoples has adopted a decision to bring their own armed detachments into the region. Your comment?

[Beppayev] We are like neutral forces here, responsible for the internal security of the Republic. Naturally, we are against this kind of thing. In the event that this does happen, we will be obliged to give an appropriate rebuff.

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 May

LD0105055592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0502 GMT 1 May

[Text] Moscow May 1 TASS—The press today highlights the Russian president's current tour of the country. Newspapers write about Boris Yeltsin's visit to the Cherepovetsk metallurgical works and publish quotes from his speeches at meetings with workers.

Newspapers continue to comment on the recent Congress of the Russian People's Deputies. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an interview with deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Vladimir Shumeyko. Shumeyko proposes restructuring industry, amending the government's policy and conducting reforms at micro level—the level of enterprises and associations. According to him, it is necessary to create a market infrastructure, real mechanisms that would make enterprises restructure themselves by means of financial incentives. In particular, he prefers holding companies. The Ministry of Industry "must be transformed into a ministry for industrial affairs which should foster favourable conditions for the work of enterprises rather than control them."

"I will not create opposition to reforms," Mikhail Gorbachev told the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. "I will help as best as I can. I will also criticise, but no one should hope that I would adjust myself to current circumstances." Gorbachev confirmed that he had an agreement with Boris Yeltsin that the latter will face no

opposition. Speaking about relations between Ukraine and Russia, Gorbachev emphasised that "the break-up of ties within the Commonwealth is a major strategic mistake" which will lead to "the collapse of the market, national security, and grave racial conflicts."

Gorbachev stressed the need for "effective forms of management inside the Commonwealth." Speaking on his attitude to Yeltsin's position on reforms, Gorbachev said: "We agree on the reform of the political system and property relations. We have different approaches towards reforming the union. When struggling with the centre, Yeltsin struck a blow at the Union and Russia rather than at the centre. We also differ on the question of what price should be paid for the attainment of those goals."

If in the next few months Russia passes relevant legislation regarding legal rights of property and the tax structure, Western, including American, business will be able to invest its capital here with confidence. Then I think foreign capital will pour into Russia, U.S. Ambassador to Russia Robert Strauss told the newspaper TRUD. Commenting on the outcome of the Russian Congress, Strauss stressed that the Congress helped to boost the

prestige of President Yeltsin and Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar in the West. Strauss pointed to the commonality of interests of Russia and the United States. The ambassador said he wanted American-Russian relations to rest on a common basis.

TRUD frontpages material devoted to the Mayday festivities. "Maybe today's festival is quite opportune? Maybe, it is the right time for solidarity, civic, human and moral...," the newspaper asks.

The situation in trouble spots—the Dniester region, Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia—are the focus of attention of newspapers. Most Russian newspapers publish commentaries on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet and southern Russia.

International sections of newspapers write about the reaction of foreign news media to admission of Russia and other Commonwealth countries into the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the situation in the Middle East and Yugoslavia, and racial disturbances in the United States.

International Affairs

Spokesman Comments on START, Nonproliferation

LD3004121792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1113 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, April 30 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry is unaware that the four nuclear states of the former Soviet Union and the United States will be parties to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), a senior Russian spokesman said at a briefing here today.

Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Directorate Chief Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said the Russian Foreign Ministry made this statement in conjunction with the Ukrainian News Agency's report quoting President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine as saying in the run-up to his visit to the United States that there exists such an accord and that a meeting of the four foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to sign a protocol to the treaty is scheduled to be held shortly.

"The all-important part of any agreement to ratify the START Treaty is the reiteration that the nuclear non-proliferation regime is not undermined," Yastrzhembskiy stressed. "Therefore, Russia persistently works for Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Byelarus to become as soon as possible parties to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as states which do not possess this weapon."

Yastrzhembskiy said this stance of Russia is also supported by the West. However, the Ukrainian side has so far refused to assume specific commitments as to when it will accede to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. "If Ukraine decides to take this ripe step, Russia will certainly welcome it," Yastrzhembskiy stressed.

Further on Remarks

OW3004182492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1423 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Mayorov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry stands for Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Byelarus to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty as soon as possible, as non-nuclear states.

At the April 30 briefing in the Russian Foreign Ministry press center the Director of the Foreign Ministry's Department for information and press Sergey Yastrzhembskiy stated that for the time being Ukraine refused to take obligations of such kind. According to him, if Ukraine undertakes such movements and joins the Treaty than Russia will greet this fact.

Mentioning the statement of the Ambassador at large Yuriy Dubinin, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy refuted information that the Russian Foreign Ministry does not participate in the negotiations on dividing the Black Sea Fleet going on in Odessa.

S. Yastrzhembskiy also said that Philip Sidorskiy was appointed Ambassador of Russia to Uzbekistan, who worked as an Adviser of Envoy in the Russian Embassy in Kabul. He was born in 1937, Russian. [as received]

Spokesman Says Diplomatic Reductions Planned

'No Political Reasons' Noted

LD3004170992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1549 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS—The reduction of the number of Russian diplomatic missions abroad has no political reasons. It is prompted by purely economic considerations. Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, said this in a briefing here on Thursday [30 April].

The spokesman said the reform of the Russian diplomatic service applies to the central apparatus and the staff of embassies abroad. The diplomatic staff of Russian embassies is cut by 30 per cent and administrative-technical by 15 per cent. This does not mean, however, that the workload of missions abroad will decrease, Yastrzhembskiy said. The purpose is more rational personnel placement and employment of high professionals in foreign missions.

The briefing was told of the decision to terminate the functioning of ten Russian embassies (in nine African countries and in Papua-New Guinea). However, this will not be accompanied by recalling home staffers of other institutions and specialists working on contracts. Diplomats will work on a concurrent basis in several countries which is in accordance with international practice. "This enforced measure does not mean ending diplomatic relations with these countries or lowering the level of relations", the spokesman said.

He said there are plans to open 14 Russian embassies in Baltic countries and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Embassy Closures Reported

PM3004152992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Boris Yeltsin Closes 10 Embassies"]

[Text] The activity of Russian Federation embassies in a number of countries in Africa and the Pacific region has been stopped by decree of President Boris Yeltsin.

Under this document diplomatic missions in Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Togo, and Sierra Leone will be closed in the near future. The Russian Foreign Ministry has been instructed to switch to the institution of honorary consuls in those countries. The Finance Ministry has been instructed by the president to determine sources of funds to cover foreign currency and ruble expenditure due to the cessation of the embassies' activity.

On Tuesday, 28 April, Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov briefed the foreign ambassadors of the 10 African and Pacific countries where Russia is closing its diplomatic missions on the presidential decree. In conversation with your correspondent this high-ranking diplomat said that the foreign ambassadors had received his explanations calmly. They stated that they had no intention of closing their own missions in Moscow in response, particularly as they will soon have to double up in the capitals of the CIS countries.

The ambassadors asked several questions concerning the further development of relations between Russia and the states which they represent. The deputy foreign minister explained that Yeltsin's decision was down to purely financial and economic reasons, not political ones. Whereas the upkeep of embassies was previously funded out of the resources of the former union republics, Moscow now bears alone the expense of all the former USSR's foreign embassies, without exception. There is no question at all here of curtailing diplomatic or other bilateral ties with our traditional partners. Russian ambassadors will be accredited to those countries on a joint basis.

Incidentally, the appointment of ambassadors on a joint basis is widely accepted in international practice. One-third of the foreign ambassadors in Moscow, for example, have parallel accreditation to Finland. Almost half the ambassadors are also accredited to Mongolia. Many ambassadors of small states, while working in Russia, are accredited to other East European countries.

The Foreign Ministry leadership does not, it became clear, intend to close the Russian embassies in Africa and the Pacific region immediately. They will cease their activity gradually throughout 1992. During the conversation with the ambassadors it was stressed that all Russian specialists will remain working at local level and not a single contract or other form of cooperation will be broken.

According to Kolokolov, not just embassies but consulates too will be reduced in various countries in the future. "And this won't necessarily be in Africa." However, the deputy minister could not give the exact number of Russian diplomatic offices and missions abroad due to be cut.

In response to a question from IZVESTIYA Kolokolov said that "we will revive the institution of honorary

consuls" wherever necessary. In world diplomatic practice this function is performed by people who live in the locality. Honorary consuls are issued with a consular license by the government and, once in receipt of this, they are entitled to carry out their activity to the full.

Further on Gaydar's Visit to U.S., Talks

PM3004104192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Pavel Golub and Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Everything Will Be Fine in Russia, G. Bush tells IZVESTIYA"]

[Excerpt] "Please, tell the people in your country that I am convinced that everything will be fine, that everything will work out," U.S. President George Bush requested when asked by an IZVESTIYA correspondent for his assessment of the mood in the U.S. Congress, and whether the bill on financial and economic assistance to Russia would be passed there, and how quickly.

"I am confident," the president, who received Russia's Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar in the White House on Tuesday, 28 April, emphasized, "that the bill will be backed by Congress because it is right, it has not fallen prey to partisan clashes. Political intrigues will be put aside, even though this year is election year. The bill has won powerful support from both the Democratic and Republican leaderships in both chambers. And we will do our bit to advance it."

Replying to an American reporter's question on Russia's admission to the IMF, probably the most important event of recent days, G. Bush expressed the conviction that this was a timely decision. "We are progressing," he replied, "as we should be."

Albeit briefly, progress was somewhat slowed down on Tuesday when Boris Yeltsin's remarks to the INTERFAX Agency became known, stating that Russia will not live under the diktat of the IMF. Many observers in the United States interpreted these remarks as proof that Moscow, which was only just admitted to the Fund and is hoping to obtain substantial assistance from it, is not prepared to comply with the Fund's conditions concerning specific aspects of its policy.

Both Gaydar and the Fund's leaders hastily offered explanations designed to soften the negative interpretation of these remarks in the United States. "Mr. Yeltsin understands perfectly well the methods used by the Fund," Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, said. "It is not diktat but consent to take part in the implementation of a program which has essentially been drawn up by the country itself. That is what we have done up to now, and we intend to proceed in this way also in respect of Russia."

In reply to a question from IZVESTIYA, Russia's vice premier said virtually the same thing: "We are conducting our own economic policy and we are not conducting it because it is being dictated to us, but because we ourselves regard it as expedient. On the whole it coincides with IMF policy and therefore it enjoys the support of the international financial community." [passage omitted]

Returns Home, Comments on Reform

LD3004143492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1155 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russia does not intend to curtail the economic reforms which are being implemented but will accelerate them, including those aimed at convertibility of the ruble. Yegor Gaydar, vice premier of the Russian Government, said this today on his return from Washington, where he was present for the announcement by the ruling councils of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank of their decision approving Russia's application to join these two international financial organizations.

Moreover, he stressed, recommendations made by representatives of the IMF and World Bank do not require the Russian Government to alter the draft budget for the second quarter.

Answering a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Yegor Gaydar said that the main legal provision for Russia joining the IMF and World Bank is ratification of the agreement by Russia's Supreme Soviet. He expressed the hope that the Russian parliament will ratify this agreement and this will serve as a basis for all subsequent measures concerning the country joining these international financial organizations.

Yegor Gaydar said that as part of Russia's membership of the Fund and the Bank a package of credits is being offered by the West. Part of these credits is purely for Russia and part is general and aimed at stabilizing the ruble and making it convertible. Gaydar also noted that he himself and Georgiy Matyukhin, chairman of the Board of the State Bank of Russia, will represent Russia at the IMF.

Remarks on IMF Recommendations

LD3004210792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report on news conference by Yegor Gaydar, Russian first deputy prime minister, with unidentified correspondents at Vnukovo Airport on 30 April on his return from the United States; first paragraph introduction read by program announcer Aleksandr Zelenkov—recorded]

[Text] A few hours ago Yegor Gaydar, Russia's first deputy prime minister, arrived in Moscow from New York. At Vnukovo Airport Gaydar held a brief news

conference. Answering the question, what effect will entry into the IMF have on the situation in the republic, Yegor Gaydar answered:

[Gaydar] Generally the IMF recommendations which were expressed were in turn connected with fears about whether we intend all the same to cut back on the process of reform; whether we intend to slow it down, to turn it back. During the discussions which took place in Washington we agreed that no, there are no grounds for us to turn back, that on the contrary we will use the political possibilities which have now opened up to speed up the process of transformations, and first and foremost to speed up the process of opening up the economy—introducing the convertibility of the ruble. In fact in that will be the core of our cooperation with the IMF in the next few months.

[Correspondent] Tell me please, is Russia ready, the government in particular, to accept these \$24 billion, even under specific programs?

[Gaydar] This will require great organizational work. In essence this will now be the pivot of the government's work, one of its most important directions, because indeed the most foolish thing that could be done would be simply to take the 24 billion and throw it to the wind, because then nobody will give you anything else. There are fairly clear understandings on the directions for using the credits from the World Bank and the IMF, in particular for rehabilitation. Everything is clear more or less on all mechanisms, and here fortunately, market will help us. There is our general understanding and accord on using the stabilization fund—the period for setting it up and the mechanisms for using it. As for sectoral and investment credits, including bilateral ones, there can be no question of any kind of rush here or any kind of wish to get hold of more and more credits, irrespective of time periods for possible repayments and their effectiveness.

[Correspondent] (?In other words), you are confident that the fate of certain Third World countries, which received money from the IMF, squandered it, and were then shaken by social cataclysms, that this fate will not befall Russia?

[Gaydar] Well, usually the fate of Third World countries was somewhat different. The Third World countries which found themselves in the clutches of populist policies could not control their own budget and monetary mass. They tried to hold talks with the IMF but those talks failed because their policy was not consistent. They did not receive money properly nor did not receive enough. Cooperation programs were stopped and the debt gradually increased, primarily through bilateral credits.

[Correspondent] Please tell us, are these means intended for strengthening the Russian ruble or the CIS ruble?

[Gaydar] There is a package of various credits. Some of them are of strictly Russian nature, say, the IMF's

reserve credit. If such credits are given to other Commonwealth member-states, this will be made conditional on a specific, sensible, and reasonable economic policy. There are credits which are being given for purposes which, as a matter of fact, are beneficial for all CIS member-states. This is first and foremost the stabilization fund, because it is being used in fact by all the states which use the ruble. It makes it possible to make the ruble convertible and stable. In connection with this, it is an additional stimulus for all those who use the ruble to preserve links with the ruble zone, and, correspondingly, to play by the rules, because it is impossible otherwise.

[Zelenkov] Yegor Gaydar said in conclusion that he himself and Matyukhin, chairman of the Central Bank, would represent Russia's interests in the IMF.

Government Plans Outlined

OW3004162392 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1453 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" No. 63—transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] During the coming months one of the key directions in the activities of the Russian government will be big organizational work to digest the credits extended by international financial organizations, said Thursday [30 April] Yegor Gaydar, Russian vice-premier, upon return from the USA to Moscow. He said that the cabinet "had a clear idea of the ways to use the funds extended by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, first of all as regards the so-called organizational and reserve credits." There is also "a general understanding and agreement to use a stabilization fund concerning the timetable and mechanism of its creation." "As for sectoral-adjustment credits," said Gaydar, "we cannot make haste and we are not seeking to grab as much as we can, no matter whether we can repay or put them to any productive use."

Answering the question of IF's [INTERFAX] Andrey Pershin, Gaydar emphasized that the IMF recommendations would not force the government to revise the budget for the second half of 1992. First vice-premier added that the IMF recommendations were connected, first of all, with concerns that the RF [Russian Federation] can leave the road of reforms. In the course of the discussion in Washington, the sides agreed that Russia did not have any reason to turn back and that it will on the contrary use the opening political possibilities to accelerate transformations, make the economy open to the world and make the ruble convertible. This is at the heart of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the IMF for the coming months, said Gaydar. [passage omitted]

Baker's Comments on People's Congress Viewed

LD0105062692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0606 GMT 1 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksander Korolev]

[Text] Washington May 1 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin came out of the recent Congress of Russian Deputies strengthened. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Thursday [30 April].

"That is the assessment of our people there in Moscow," he said in reply to a question by one of the legislators.

Baker added that since the Congress ended he had occasion to meet Yegor Gaydar, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, and Russian Ambassador to the United States Vladimir Lukin. "I think that is their assessment as well," he said.

"And for that we are very glad, because we, as I have said before, think that the Russians have embarked upon a very courageous program of trying to reform their political system and their economic system. And we would like to see that succeed for obvious reasons," Baker told the legislators.

At the same time the secretary of state did not rule out "a threat of a return to totalitarianism, if the democrats and reformers are unable to produce..."

Ministry Offers Cooperation With Afghan Regime

LD0105114192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1122 GMT 1 May 92

["Russia Offers Cooperation to new Afghan Government"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 1 TASS—"The first and, in essence, the most difficult step has been made towards unblocking, on a basis acceptable to Afghans themselves, the protracted armed conflict, for the end of which the Afghan people and the world community have pushed so hard," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement here on Friday [1 May], on the occasion of formation of the coalition mojahedin council in Kabul.

"For the first time in many years a real opportunity opens for restoring peace and accord on Afghan soil, putting the independent, sovereign and territorially integral Afghanistan on the road of creative life".

"While acknowledging the inalienable right of Afghan people to determine their life themselves, the democratic Russian Federation is prepared to develop with the Islamic Government of Afghanistan relations, shorn of accretions of the past and based on the universally recognised norms of international law, as well as to take part in efforts of the world community aimed at rebuilding the country," the document runs.

"Russia, basing itself on the old traditional ties between the two countries, is open to developing cooperation with the new Afghan leadership in the interests of Russian and Afghan peoples, security and stability in the region."

The statement also said that in current circumstances there no obstacles remained to the immediate and unconditional release of former Soviet POWs. Such a step by the Afghan side would be welcomed by Russia and other CIS member countries.

Government To Send Emergency Aid

LD3004225292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Government has adopted a decision to provide Afghanistan with emergency humanitarian aid. Transport planes will deliver 80 tonnes of flour and 100,000 doses of anti-cholera vaccine to Kabul.

Further on Foreign Minister's Middle East Tour

News Conference Held

LD3004181592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1137 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Muscat, 30 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—"We are extremely satisfied with the results of the first visit to our country by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs." This was said at a news conference in Muscat with Andrey Kozyrev by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. "There were substantive talks on a wide range of issues, and our Russian guest handed a personal message from President Boris Yeltsin to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, which expresses a readiness to develop comprehensive bilateral relations."

A number of regional and international problems were discussed during the talks, the minister of state continued, noting in particular the coincidence of the sides' positions on the problems of a Near East settlement, as well as in their assessment of the Persian Gulf situation.

In answer to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said that Oman is following events in Russia, which has undertaken a fundamental reform of society, with great attention. According to the minister, Russia's present stance has the universal backing of the democratic world. Oman believes that the course chosen by Boris Yeltsin is the correct one, and that the community is beholden to support it. "We want Russia to triumph over the trials of the transitional period which have befallen it, something that is no doubt in the interests of the whole world," he stressed.

Andrey Kozyrev shared the Omani assessment of the talks which have taken place, and noted that the meeting with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, and the achievements of the Sultanate in stable and dynamic development, made a great impression upon him.

Speaking about Russia's interest in developing relations with Oman, the minister said that this applies first and foremost to consolidating stability and security in the region. The recent Iraqi aggression, he added, has demonstrated that the price of destabilizing the situation in the region is extremely high, and that it is in the interests of the whole world to achieve undeviating observance of the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq, while simultaneously ensuring conditions for Iraq to retain a proper place in the international community.

Andrey Kozyrev said that the sides hold the same view with regard to the problem of "the proliferation of extremism disguised as Islam". This issue was discussed throughout the whole trip around the six countries of the Persian Gulf. From conversations with the leaders of the states there, "I gained the conviction that true Islam has nothing to do with aggression, violence, or obscurantism". This problem is highly topical for Russia, where there is a considerable Muslim population, he stressed.

The Russian minister advocated developing cooperation with Oman in their approach to Near East settlement. In his words, on behalf of the United States and Russia, the Omani side has been invited to take part in one of the highly important working groups of the Near East conference. Agreement has been obtained from all the leaders of the Persian Gulf countries to continue efforts in order to achieve peace in this region.

Answering a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Andrey Kozyrev said that the wisdom of the Omani leaders made a great impression on him. "This little country works on the principle of developing neighborly relations without clinging to the extra kilometer. Oman is striving to live in peace and accord, although in doing this it does not ignore its principles. Without a doubt Oman's experience could be useful to other, very much larger countries", the Russian minister concluded.

Kozyrev Welcomes Afghan Regime

LD3004205492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russia welcomes the new authorities in Kabul. This was stated by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev who is currently in Oman.

Kozyrev Returns To Moscow

*LD3004200992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1930 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow April 30 ITAR-TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev returned to Moscow on Thursday [30 April] evening from a tour of six countries of the Persian Gulf. He visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Oman.

The purpose of the Russian minister's trip to Persian Gulf countries was to establish personal contacts with leaders of those countries, to hold political consultations on a broad range of questions of bilateral relations, regional problems and some topical international problems. The first visit of the chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry to the Persian Gulf region was in the framework of the programme of Russian diplomacy to form a belt of goodneighbourliness and cooperation around Russia.

Intelligence Service Leader Visits Sweden

*PM3004153392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5*

[EFIR-DAYDZHEST report: "Our Intelligence Service Willing To Cooperate"]

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, head of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, has arrived in Sweden on a three-day visit.

The Russian intelligence service has expressed a desire to cooperate with Sweden on such matters as the fight against terrorism and the drugs trade and the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons from the territory of the former USSR. Primakov also expressed a readiness to discuss the question of the perennial violations of Swedish territorial waters by so-called unidentified submarines.

Gives News Conference

*LD0105001192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1305 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Stockholm, 30 Apr—The process of establishing cooperation with Western partners in the field of security has begun and has an objective basis, Yevgeniy Primakov told a news conference in the Swedish capital today. The director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [RFIS] emphasized that this is dictated by the need for joint efforts in stemming the spread of weapons

of mass destruction, organized crime, and narcobusiness. During his visit to Stockholm, he discussed these issues with colleagues from the Swedish police and the secret service Sepo.

"We don't have a formal agreement, but an exchange of views showed that we could swap information, particularly, as regards the prevention of terrorism," said Primakov. The Russian service is prepared to exchange this information and counts on similar moves by the Swedish side. Asked about cuts in the number of his service's staff abroad, Primakov replied: "We are scaling down our presence abroad because the accent of our activities is changing."

According to him, Russian intelligence "protects the national interests of Russia and is not acting against any country." "We have moved away from confrontation in world affairs," he stressed. Speaking about intelligence personnel in Sweden, the RFIS director said, that now its "numbers and activities are being reduced in many areas, and this is noted by the Swedish side."

He also added that "we do not have here intelligence officers who interfere in the affairs of the Swedish state or view its structures as a subject for their activities." No figures were heard at the news conference. As Yevgeniy Primakov noted, "all states have intelligence systems, but calculations and moreover appraisals of reasonable sufficiency are always subjective."

A significant number of questions concerned the search for Stig Bergling, sentenced for espionage in Sweden and who escaped from prison in 1987. The RFIS director ruled out the possibility of him being in Russia. "I have no information to that effect, and I consider myself well-informed," he said.

A question was also asked on violations of coastal waters by submarines in the 1980's and the possible involvement of the Soviet Union in this. The head of Russian intelligence recalled that that at the moment this problem is being studied jointly by Russian and Swedish specialists. The discussions, he noted, "are of a confidential character and will be continued."

Appraising as a whole the results of his visit, during which he had a long conversation with Prime Minister Carl Bildt, Yevgeniy Primakov called his trip to Stockholm "successful and very useful." "Our country," he said, "is linked with Sweden by a long history which has not always been painted in good colors, but I am convinced that now all the preconditions exist for the development of relations along a rising line."

Comments on Coup Possibility

*LD3004154992 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network
in Swedish 1445 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] The risks of a new coup in Russia are very small because there are no longer any forces with the ability to carry out such a coup. This was stated by Yevgeniy

Primakov, head of the Russian Intelligence Service, at a news conference today in Stockholm. According to Primakov, the threat against Russia is the aggravated economic situation, which may lead to social tension.

Vice President Rutskoy Arrives in Israel

Comments Upon Arrival

LD2804220292 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service*
in Russian 1920 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 28 Apr—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived in Israel on a working visit 28 April. The Russian guest was met at Ben Gurion International Airport by Ariel Sharon, minister of construction and housing, and other officials. Russian Ambassador to Israel Aleksandr Bovin was also at the airport.

Rutskoy made a statement for the press, thanking the Israeli side for the warm welcome. He recalled that diplomatic relations between our countries had been broken off for nearly a quarter of a century and were only restored last fall. Today, the vice president said, Russia is on the way to establishing new relations with the state of Israel, not only diplomatic but also commercial and economic. My visit is aimed at placing contacts between our countries on a broad and constructive footing, Rutskoy said, expressing confidence that this would be in the interest of both Russia and Israel.

The agenda of the visit, which will continue until 1 May, includes meetings with the president and prime minister of Israel, distinguished politicians, and representatives of business circles and visits to a number of agro-industrial enterprises.

Holds Talks With Shamir

LD2904161192 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1459 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv April 29 TASS—Visiting Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met in Jerusalem on Wednesday [29 April] to discuss the developments in the Middle East and stressed there is no alternative to a peaceful solution of the crisis in the region.

The Russian policy towards Middle East is "reserved", Shamir said at a luncheon in honour of Rutskoy, adding that Russia abandoned unilateral support of Arabs in their conflict with Israel.

The talks were aimed to eliminate the gap which has been for long characteristic of bilateral relations and to promote political, economic and cultural cooperation, the Israeli prime minister said.

People in Israel treat Russia with great sympathy and remember its contribution to the defeat of the German fascism, he added.

Rutskoy, the first Russian official of such a high rank to visit Israel, told Shamir there are unique possibilities for Russian-Israeli cooperation as a considerable part of Israeli population are former Soviet citizens.

Rutskoy, a decorated Afghan war veteran, visited the memorial to Jews—victims of the German fascism and laid a wreath to the eternal fire.

Evacuation of Citizens From Libya Planned

PM3004190092 Moscow *ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 1 May 92 p 7

[Vyacheslav Yelagin report: "Sanctions. Special Flight: Tripoli-Moscow"]

[Text] The Interdepartmental Commission on the Evacuation of Citizens of Russia and Other CIS Member States From Libya, set up by a directive of the Russian Federation president and headed by Russian Government deputy chairman V. Makharadze, held its first session 28 April. The Russian Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Transport, and the relevant departments were tasked with implementing practical measures relating to bringing people out. The evacuation will be carried out by air. On the first Aeroflot charter flight on 24 April, 83 people returned home. The next special flights are planned for 4, 5, and 6 May.

For each such flight permission has to be obtained from the Committee on Sanctions Against Libya set up by the UN Security Council. A further 250-270 people are expected to be brought out in this way. It should be noted that the Libyan authorities are behaving entirely correctly and not creating any artificial obstacles. Still in Libya today are 2,500 citizens of Russia and other CIS member states and members of their families who are due to be evacuated.

It will take about 10 Il-86 flights to transport them to Moscow. The Russian leadership is aware that the process of bringing our people out of Libya will not be easy. Considerable organizational and financial problems are involved.

The date 15 May, when all states have to report to the UN secretary general on the course of fulfillment of the UN Security Council decisions, is the reference point in the work of evacuating our military and military-technical specialists from Libya.

Sanctions Against Libya, Obligations Viewed

PM3004193092 Moscow *ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 1 May 92 p 7

[Vitaliy Buzuyev "Mini-Commentary," published immediately below Vyacheslav Yelagin report entitled "Sanctions. Special Flight: Tripoli-Moscow"]

[Text] The difficulties Russia is encountering in fulfilling the UN Security Council decisions with regard to Libya can hardly be described as easy to overcome. It is not yet known what losses our country will suffer as a result of the ending of weapons deliveries and the recall of military and military-technical specialists from Libya. It must also be borne in mind that it is possible that Libya will cease paying its debt to Russia. In a recent interview for the Italian magazine EUROPEO Libyan leader M. al-Qadhdhafi stated unequivocally that the UN sanctions will ultimately rebound on the countries that adopted them. "The states that provoked us," he said, "will see expropriated from them many billions which Libya will be able to use. We are not frightened of an embargo."

But it cannot be helped. Moral obligations to the world community, which has taken a tough line on international terrorism, should be more important than economic or ideological priorities.

Although, naturally, not everyone thinks so. The recent episode of the Chinese ship which delivered small arms and anti-aircraft weapons to Tripoli contrary to UN sanctions shows us once again: Russia could have been in a similar position if the events of August 1991 had developed according to a different scenario. According to the American magazine NEWSWEEK, this delivery of weapons to Libya is nothing less than a "slap in the face" for U.S. President G. Bush's policy. One could add, a slap in the face for the world community. And any amount of explanations "after the event" by the Chinese side to the effect that the ship had entered Libya's territorial waters before 15 April (according to CIA information, it was 17 April), that is, the day that sanctions were imposed, is not going to convince the West that next time China will adhere strictly to decisions formulated by the world community. Let us tie a knot in our handkerchiefs, as the saying goes, to remind ourselves.

Zhirinovskiy on Finland as Part of Russia

OW3004185992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1411 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told the Finnish communist newspaper Kansan Uutiset that he viewed the future of Finland exclusively as part of Russia. "To get rid of the eternal anxiety about the future of their state, the Finns will have to ask Russia, which they once illegally abandoned, to let it back in", he said.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy believes that Russia needs an eternal border in the West - the border with Sweden and Germany.

He reserves for Finland the role of a northern holiday area for Russian pensioners and children hoping to find Father Frost in Laplandia. He backed his position by the

fact that the 1975 Helsinki agreement on the inviolability of the European borders has been violated. "If it is possible to establish new states in Russia, Russia, too, should restore its borders as of January 1990," he said.

Extradition of Couple From Finland Sought

LD3004200392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1808 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 30 CRIMEPRESS-TASS—The Russian State Security Ministry today issued a statement in connection with the detention of a married couple from Russia in the Finnish airport:

"The Security Ministry of the Russian Federation is receiving questions from journalists concerning the incident that took place in April 23 when Finnish police detained a married couple from Russia at the airport of the city of Vantaa as they tried to enter the country using fake English passports. On April 26, the court in the city of Vantaa ruled on the arrest of the detainees to clarify their identity. A report about the detention was published in the Finnish newspaper HELSINGIN SANOMAT on April 27 1992 and broadcast by Finnish Radio.

"In this connection the Security Ministry of the Russian Federation has to declare as follows. The development of partnership relations between our countries along the line of law enforcement agencies has recently helped to disclose a number of crimes. The ministry is ready at present to assist Finland's law enforcement bodies as well as it can. Being interested in obtaining information from the detainees concerning the circumstances and the purpose of obtaining fake documents on Russian territory, which could help to detect criminals acting in this country and their connections both at home and abroad, the Security Ministry of the Russian Federation has appealed to the Russian Foreign Ministry to handle along diplomatic channels the problem of extradition of the married couple to the Russian competent bodies."

Federation Affairs

Burbulis on Upcoming Changes in Cabinet

OW3004193192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1530 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX], Russian Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis said some dismissals and new appointments might soon be made in the Defense, Interior, and Security ministries, which would not, however, affect the government's strategic line. But he refused to give any names.

Commenting on President Boris Yeltsin's statement to the effect that Russia would not not allow the International Monetary Fund [words indistinct] economic reform. Burbulis stressed the government's willingness

to take joint mutually beneficial measures with the world community in interest of stability in the world. But Russia would take its own decisions and carry them out taking account of its specific conditions.

Further on Petrov Resignation Attempt

LD0105020292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Interview with Yu. V. Petrov, head of the administration of President Boris Yeltsin, by commentator V. Perfiliev, in the studio—live or recorded]

[Text] [Perfiliev] Yuriy Vladimirovich, you have been working with the president, with Boris Nikolayevich, for quite some years now, and your decision to resign cannot have been an easy one.

[Petrov] You are right; it was a painful decision to have to make, but it was dictated by the situation that had arisen just before the Congress and by the whole way events were developing. You will know that when I joined the administration last August I immediately found myself unwanted perhaps, if I may say so.

[Perfiliev] By whom?

[Petrov] Well, it is difficult for me to say. Not the president, I think, because it was the president who invited me to take this post. You will doubtless remember how many articles there were in the various media and the statements demanding that I resign and accusing me of all possible and impossible mortal sins, alleging that I was the main brake, or at least one of the main brakes on reform and the transformations that were under way in Russia. All this was, of course, creating a rather tense situation.

It was restricting my actions and preventing me from working at full capacity. There was also the campaign that was mounted recently, and especially before the Congress, the campaign of persecution against all former officials, people who had worked in the Union structures and in the party organizations. You will know that I have worked in the party pretty well all my life. I held quite a number of posts. I am categorically opposed to this sort of attitude, because it destabilizes society and prevents us from focusing today on performing the tasks that everyone must work on together, using our great wealth of experience, people with their talents, knowledge, abilities and experience, and all of Russia's intellectual potential.

[Perfiliev] Yuriy Vladimirovich, on a purely human level, how was your statement received above all by your family and by your professional colleagues?

[Petrov] To be honest, the news was received in the family with relief. My colleagues at work and those I had worked with previously received the news, it seemed to me, in general, with sadness and criticism. Nevertheless,

I thought I had made the only possible right decision at the time. I made an honest decision, because I also considered that the constant attacks launched at me created some inconveniences for the president's activities. I respect him too much to somehow hamper his work and his activities at such a responsible and, in reality, critical stage in the history of Russia and for him as a political figure.

[Perfiliev] Nevertheless, the 3-hour conversation took place. It was reported in the media and here at the television studio. How did it influence the future events and your decision to remain in this position?

[Petrov] Well, as you see I have returned to my duties. The president said that he needs me and that I should work precisely here in this position. He said that he fully trusts me in a same way as he had done before. He confirmed the position he had adopted—and which I knew before—in that he is in favor of consolidating society. The president said that he is against any kind of witch-hunting.

Thus, all the questions that led me to submit my resignation were taken off the agenda. That is why I returned to carrying out my duties, and I have already been steadfastly working during these past few days.

[Perfiliev] Yuriy Vladimirovich, the position you occupy is called head of administration. Administration in the ordinary sense nevertheless means officials and bureaucrats. It is no secret and there is great truth in that bureaucracy at all times has managed to extinguish all kinds of reforms, and this is what it is well known for. How do you imagine the president's administration should be organized to avoid repeating the age-old mistake?

[Petrov] Well, this can be more applied to some extent to our Russian bureaucracy. As for the civilized world, it has managed to carry out reforms and reach its present-day level of development precisely with the help and with the assistance of the apparat and administration. That is why I think that one should at least approach these issues with care and with a measure of criticism toward the complaints that are often being hastily made and expressed from various podiums and also by the mass media and television. These voices demand that the administrative apparat—the so-called Hydra—should be immediately halved or even reduced three or fivefold.

Here is what I believe. I was, am, and continue to be, and will always continue to be, a supporter of a very strong and highly qualified state apparatus. No civilized state can get by without an apparat, without a civil service, as you call it. These people must be highly qualified. They must be protected by a special law, and there are such laws on the state service in many civilized countries. These are people who enjoy certain benefits and even perhaps privileges, including pension entitlements, and so on. They are people who, at any rate, must enjoy great respect in society. We still need to achieve this.

The criticisms that are today leveled at the apparat about corruption, red tape, the lack of discipline, and many other things do, of course, in considerable measure refer to things that do actually occur. We need to set up this apparat at some stage—an apparat that will function in an efficient, skilled, and speedy fashion and meet all the requirements of the present day.

My view is that the apparat has to be built to meet the tasks in hand. The tasks that our Russia needs to tackle are truly gigantic. No apparat, no state leadership has ever had to perform such tasks. And that has to be borne in mind today. That is why I support precisely these approaches, and I will defend them here.

As for the criticism that was leveled against the apparat at the Congress, we are now drawing concrete conclusions, we have started an analysis of the functioning of the apparat. I agree that certain of our structural levels are patently redundant today, while in some places they may need to be reinforced. The tasks have changed. They may have been set up in August, September, October, or November. Now, the need for certain commissions may have disappeared.

After all, there's no point in the president having 24 committees and commissions in which he is directly involved. He simply does not have the time to actually work with them. So in this respect some redistribution of duties between the presidential structures and the government apparatus—not the government itself, but the government apparatus—will definitely take place, and it will take place in the very near future. I think that we will carry this work out above all in a well-considered and collegial way in order to resolve these matters as skillfully as possible. There will be no disbandment of the apparatus, about which certain people perhaps have been thinking. There is no need for that, and I know the work of the apparatus and see it from the inside.

[Perfilyev] Nevertheless, Yuriy Vladimirovich, we are all talking about the difficulties that we are experiencing. Yet, we so much want some fresh air, smiles on faces and festivities. Well, the May festival is arriving.

[Petrov] Yes, in general it is always necessary to remain an optimist. I am by nature an optimist, and I think and am confident that we will nevertheless win through. However, for this we will have, of course, to do much work, work with great initiative and thought and work precisely to unite society at the present time. In my opinion, one of the main tasks now is to unite and rally together all the healthy forces of society around this main strategic task of transforming Russia, creating a new Russia, and creating a new society and in general a new state. I think that in this respect we will, of course, all have to work and also to some extent be patient and show tolerance. In doing so, we must not lose our compassion, if you like, for our neighbor or our efforts to support him with all our strength.

Military-Industrial Complex Meets Government

*LD0105040492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russia 1000 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] The second round of talks between the Russian Government and the heads of the military-industrial structures of northwest Russia has started in St. Petersburg.

[Correspondent Denis Gudinskiy] A delegation of the Russian Ministry of Finance and Industry and a delegation from the committee for conversion under the president of Russia have started talks with military industrialists from St. Petersburg and other northwestern towns and cities of Russia for the second time.

The envoys of the government want, with the assistance of the St. Petersburg mayor's office, to settle the conflict which arose in February after Moscow refused to subsidize the conversion projects of the northwestern military industrial complex. The military industrialists, in their turn, threatened to call a strike. This conflict has already begun to take on large proportions, since the demands of the military-industrial complex were supported by the office of the city's mayor and the St. Petersburg administration of the Ministry of Security of Russia. But at the end of March, the government dispatched its delegation to St. Petersburg, and in the course of the consultations that took place, it was decided to institute the St. Petersburg fund to stabilize the conversion of the regional military-industrial complex, which is called upon to convert these industries in preferential terms at the expense of central and local state investment.

The current round of talks between the Russian Government and the directorate of northwest Russia will, according to a report from the press service of the St. Petersburg mayor's office, probably be the last one. The parties are expected to sign mutual pledges. Among them, according to official data, is the handing over by the committee for Russian conversion under the Russian president all operational powers relating to the coordination of conversion directly to the St. Petersburg branch of that committee and to the conversion-stabilization fund of northwest Russia. It is also expected that the Russian Government will issue the St. Petersburg mayor's office with a general licence giving it the right to operate independently in exporting military equipment and weapons from the military-industrial enterprises throughout northwest Russia. The St. Petersburg mayor's office intends to invest the incomes from these sales in the social needs of poverty-stricken areas and in the regional conversion fund.

Denis Gudinskiy for Russia's radio news service, St. Petersburg.

Medical Workers' Strike Continues To Spread

*LD3004194492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1919 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS—The situation regarding the strike of Russian medical workers remains extremely acute. Neither the government nor the strikers are inclined to make concessions.

A conference of representatives of Russian leaders and the Union of Medical Workers held on Thursday [30 April] lasted only ten minutes. Pavel Kudyukin, deputy minister of labour and employment, announced the government's final decision which, he said, "is not subject to changes". The only favourable aspect is that the coefficient of the budget rose from 4.2 to 7.2 on the items of food and medicine. This will mean an addition of four billion roubles per quarter to the 50 billion roubles under the budget, but even this increment may soon be consumed by inflation. Regarding the salaries, the coefficient remains unchanged at 1.8. Mikhail Kuzmenko, chairman of the Russian Union of Medical Workers, believes that the strikers will not be satisfied with this decision.

Strikes continue to spread. Medical workers in Krasnoyarsk, Kursk, Magadan went on strike these days. Rallies are held in Kamchatka, Astrakhan, the Bryansk Region. Rallies of medical workers are planned to be held in Omsk and Rostov on the May 1.

Medical workers made an application to the government for a rally on May 12. The choice of the date is not accidental. The third stage, the strike of workers of first aid, begins on May 12.

'Collapse' of Health Service Seen

OW3004204592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1817 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Following Thursday's [30 April] session of a trilateral conciliatory commission, the leader of the striking union of Russian health workers Mikhail Kuzmenko said the government had made practically no move to help the national health service.

Russian medical workers report full collapse of national health care service. In Kuzmenko's view, Russia faces genocide now that contagious diseases are spreading unchecked and the death rate exceeds the birth rate. The labor leader says poverty in hospitals is so striking that surgeons use ordinary sewing threads for sutures. Ambulances return sick calls with empty emergency kits.

Kuzmenko agrees the Russian health service has fallen hostage to the International Monetary Fund, which demands that Russia fold its social programs.

The medical workers demand that up to 7 percent of the gross national product, or the equivalent of 400 billion roubles a year, be spent on health service. If the government had met the demand, the medical workers would be receiving 3100 to 3200 roubles a month instead of the 940 roubles they are receiving now. 3100 to 3200 roubles is the average monthly payment of workers in industrial

production. Mikhail Kuzmenko says the demand was not met owing to lack of finances.

'Economic Genocide' in Government Policy Viewed

LD3004220992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1245 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS—"The Russian government is pursuing its policy consistently and skillfully. It includes several people of exceptionally high qualification. But this is a policy, calculated to pull the country out of the economic crisis in two ways: By sharply reducing the people's living standards, coming to economic genocide, and by obtaining Western material assistance at the expense of national economic independence," Acting Director of the Institute for Problems of Employment under the Russian Ministry for Labour and Employment Boris Rakitskiy told ITAR-TASS.

The past four months, in his opinion, show that the Russian government has embarked upon the road of creating private capital and "a new class of paupers". "In principle, the liberalisation of prices is needed, but what we now call liberalisation is merely a monopolistic hoist of prices by the state and the family budget's instantaneous exsanguination," he believes.

"As a matter of fact, there was no liberalisation, because there is no competition. The privatisation programme's purpose is to prevent work collectives, cost what it may, to become owners of property, and the agrarian reform does not display concern for the farmers, but pursues the goal of turning land into a market commodity," Rakitskiy said. "The government proceeds from the premise that any, including the worst capitalist, is better than any best work collective," Rakitskiy stated.

Speaking about the results of the 6th Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, which he attended as a guest, Rakitskiy said that, in his opinion, the economic debate was comprehensive. The statements made by deputies from the floor, he believes, were not inferior to the government's reports on the ongoing reform. In several cases they showed a deeper understanding of the problems in hand. "The congress," Rakitskiy said, "has also shown that Boris Yeltsin is today, in fact, an unlimited dictator and wields as much power as he wants."

According to Rakitskiy, the press covered the congress "outrageously". "I never imagined that it is to such an extent dependent on the government and so one-sidedly manipulated," he said.

Rakitskiy holds that a sharp production slump will occur in the country at the end of the year, accompanied by growing covert and overt unemployment. The latter may account for 40 per cent of the active population in some

cities. One of the main reasons for growing unemployment, he believes, is the implementation of the privatization programme. "By reducing the state sector, the government deprives itself of an opportunity to invest and thereby create new work places, preferring to rely on businessmen," he stated.

"I can firmly state that most businessmen will not create any new work places within the next two years," Rakitskiy stressed.

Living Standards Below Government Expectations

LD0105090592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Economists here have calculated that in the first quarter of the year living standards in Russia dropped even farther down than the government expected due to the soaring prices. As a result more than 50 million people, or every third resident of Russia, now live below the poverty line. The government cannot adequately compensate for the rising prices by raising pay and other benefits. The prices should climb even higher after a sizable hike in the prices of oil products. Economists see a way out of the situation in energetic advances to market relations, to demonopolization and privatization.

Likely Impact of Oil Prices Hike Assessed

PM3004155192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Since the topic of higher prices for energy resources is attracting general interest, the editorial office has obtained the results of an analysis carried out by the independent Center for Socio-Strategic Research concerning the economic and social consequences of this move. The report states:

The government stopped short of entirely freeing prices for energy resources. Instead, it chose a compromise solution in an effort to minimize damage. It was impossible to maintain oil prices at the old level. This would have led to a rapid decline in oil production. There have already been cases of oil well closures and cutbacks in deliveries to CIS countries.

On the other hand, a sudden and complete freeing of oil prices would have also been fraught with many negative consequences, notably a whole series of bankruptcies in key sectors of the economy.

The government's decision amounts to the phasing in of free prices. Experts view this as a temporary measure which, despite a short-term improvement of the financial situation in the petroleum industry and the state budget, will not reduce serious negative trends in the economy, and especially the production slump in the

national economy, and enterprises' reduced investment potential and ability to pay.

Therefore, while realizing that the measures which have been adopted were unavoidable, experts are urging immediate moves toward demonopolization of the economy and speeded-up privatization.

Ruble 'Tending To Strengthen' Against Dollar

PM3004123792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 8

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Ruble Strengthens"]

[Excerpt] The latest currency exchange auction, held 28 April, confirmed that the ruble is tending to strengthen in the interbank currency market. This time the rate was set at the level of 143.6 rubles [R] to U.S. \$1, whereas at the last auction it was \$150. Sales amounted to \$8.25 million.

The strengthening of the ruble is a direct consequence of the tougher credit and monetary policy pursued by the Russian Government and republic's Central Bank. Enterprises are clearly short of rubles and they see the sale of currency they have accumulated as one way of obtaining them. At any rate, at the latest auction there were more than twice as many preliminary applications to sell currency as there were preliminary applications to buy it. And the money for sale was supplied by the enterprises themselves, and not, for instance, by the Central Bank, whose currency intervention was purely symbolic on this occasion.

Nonetheless, skeptics claim that the processes on the currency exchange do not reflect the actual situation in the currency market, because of the small volumes of currency being sold on the exchange. But that is far from the truth. It must be borne in mind that, in view of the effective bankruptcy of the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Activity, all enterprises' money was frozen and they have at their disposal only the currency they have earned this year. These funds simply cannot be large, so the amount of currency coming onto the exchange is necessarily limited.

The ruble also strengthened on the cash market last week, albeit negligibly. At any rate, according to Economic News Agency data, there was a marked increase in the quantity of dollars, [German] marks, and [French] francs put in the banks by the population. But the actual rates for cash transactions in Moscow on 27 April were as follows: "Help" was buying at R130 to \$1 and selling at R143; the Moscow Interregional Commercial Bank was buying at R125 and selling at R138; the NGS [expansion unknown] Bank was buying at R119.7 and selling at R126, and the Russian Savings Bank was buying at R120 and selling at R132. [passage omitted]

Tax Treatment Relaxed; Fines for Evasion Rise*LD3004210292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
2012 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Yekaterinburg—The head of the Russian tax service: Tax treatment will be relaxed, but fines for tax evasion will increase. On April 29, at a meeting in Yekaterinburg with heads of state and private sector enterprises, bourses and banks, the head of the Russian tax service, Igor Lazarev, also said that the government of Russia was considering the relaxation of the tax regime. On April 27-29, Lazarev held a conference in Yekaterinburg with the heads of taxation services of Chelyabinsk, Sverdlovsk, Kirov, Tyumen, Perm and Orenburg regions and also the Republics of Udmurtia, Bashkortostan and Komi.

According to Lazarev, by the end of this year there will be no structural changes in the tax policy. But it is quite possible that property taxes will be playing a more prominent role than today. According to Lazarev, the current penalties for tax evasion are purely symbolic and will be revised. A draft resolution is pending. Lazarev stressed: The tax service has now a strong fiscal lean, because the federal budget is in a deplorable state. Out of the two tasks of the tax service—mobilization of funds to the federal budget and economic regulation—the Russian government has given preference to the first one. The execution of the first task can make nothing of the budget deficit. Lazarev assured the participants in the meeting that the value added tax would stay in place, because it was flexible and effective.

Lazarev believes that agreements on this tax should be signed with the governments of the CIS and Baltic states. According to him, one can soon expect the imposition of taxes on capital taken out of the countries which were formerly incorporated in the USSR. In addition, he supported the proposal of Director of the Ural Commercial Bank, Olga Ilyinykh, about the imposition of a tax in foreign exchange for the sale of foreign exchange.

In conclusion, Lazarev said that by the end of the first quarter of this year there were no bankruptcies and the Russian taxation system was more lenient than in Germany or Austria. Igor Lazarev said that as a result of tax inspections, 5.1 billion roubles was confiscated into the federal budget (unpaid taxes plus fines), with the costs of the inspections themselves amounting to 800 million roubles. Lazarev described the performance of the tax services as effective, with one rouble in costs generating 6 roubles in profits.

Spring Sowing Campaign Status Reported*PM3004091192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 1*

[Ye. Arakelyan report on the basis of information supplied by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondents D. Shevarov, N. Yefimovich, O. Shapovalov under the rubric "Spring-92": "Tractors at Standstill, But Sowing Goes On"]

[Text] In spite of the inflamed passions over the redistribution of land, the majority of the Russian Federation's regions have nevertheless gotten down to sowing.

It is expected that the area under spring crops will remain the same as before in Volgograd Oblast. And the area sown to winter crops has even increased—by 200,000 hectares. The difficulties in the sowing campaign are the usual ones: Some 10 percent of tractors are out of order, as are 16 percent of trucks, and countless seed drills and other equipment. Fuel reserves for the oblast as a whole are larger than last year's, but several farms nevertheless have no fuel, or even have no seed—now everyone is responsible for himself. This year there will be no need to worry about nitrates: The majority of farms cannot afford mineral fertilizers. A few of Volgograd Oblast's nearly 3,000 individual farmers has gotten down to sowing. But the majority have nothing on which to go out and sow at the moment. True, the Volgograd tractor plant is preparing to turn out mini-tractors for the peasant farms which are excellent in all respects, but this year they are promising as many as...100 of them.

In several regions of Kursk Oblast work on the fields is already 60 percent completed. There are problems with fuel, especially with aviation fuel. Of 30 agricultural aircraft set aside for topdressing the winter crops, only three are flying. A session of the oblast soviet and the head of the administration decided to send the city sponsors onto the fields. Of the 1,825 helpers promised only half reached the fields.

The sowing is practically finished in Stavropol Kray, in spite of the extremely cold spring. In the opinion of specialists from the kray agro-industrial union the harvest is expected to be at the same level as last year. Hopes are also basically pinned for the moment on the collective and state farms and on the joint-stock companies formed on their basis. The farmers are forced to spend the majority of their time not in the fields, but in the banks—in search of money for equipment and seed.

Problems Facing Metallurgical Industry Pondered*PM3004131392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
29 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Article by Dmitriy Khrapovitskiy: "How To Restore Metal Circulation Within the CIS"]

[Text] For only the second time in its history "Rostsel-mash" has shut down. There is a shortage of components, including metal. IZVESTIYA has already reported that last year the volume of production of the main types of ferrous metallurgy output fell by 22 percent in comparison with the level attained earlier. Rapid sovereignization, ill-considered customs duties, chaotic exports, and absence of investment are rapidly destroying the metallurgical complex, in which national enterprises are linked like Siamese twins by mutual deliveries of thousands of components and varieties of output.

I will cite several measures which experts of the recently created International Union of Metallurgists and the Russian Ministry of Industry Department of Metallurgy, as well as experts from the CIS countries, consider urgent.

First, the incipient technological degradation of the sector, which stems in particular from the investment crisis, must be halted. The fact that the energy consumption of metallurgical production processes in CIS countries is roughly 2.5 times as great as that in advanced countries is not news. By refusing to reconstruct and retool enterprises, we doom ourselves, according to civilized concepts, to "stone age" technology. For your information, I can add that the amortization period of, for instance, rolling mills in the United States is 12 years, and only eight years in Europe. After that equipment is renewed. In the USSR eight years is the average construction time for a metallurgical plant. In the opinion of experts, it is necessary in the very near future to elaborate at least a Russian program for the reconstruction and retooling of the sector, and also to provide government guarantees for projects realized with the participation of foreign firms.

The second problem is the insolvency crisis which is hitting metallurgy. Today metallurgists are owed twice as much as they themselves owe. Whereas before the shipment of goods to the consumer was supported by credits from the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply (and the funds used to be received in the dispatcher's account a few hours after dispatch), nowadays the commercial banks have not yet taken on this function, which would not be unprofitable for them. In order to relieve the acuteness of the situation, experts propose to allow, by way of an exception, metallurgical enterprises to offset [deliveries against] debts inside the sector and between sectors. This will make it possible to improve the position of hundreds of enterprises and give them room for maneuver in the economic and social spheres.

Another problem requiring immediate solution is metal scrap and waste, the use of which has declined in recent years. On the one hand, the export of these materials is continuing (although, for example, the legislation of Germany, Austria, and many other countries forbids the export of these resources, which are of strategic importance to the economy). Experts are trying to persuade the government to go for the prohibition option—while making allowances, of course, for the interests of the metallurgical industry area, which, whether politicians like it or not, continues to remain a single area. On the other hand a large quantity of unclaimed metal is "withdrawn from circulation" in rural areas and on suburban dumps. Experts propose to return this to circulation by permitting up to 10 percent of procured metal to be returned to the procurers as rolled metal or other output. The opinion is even being expressed that ownerless scrap should be declared "common property" and bought at procurement centers from anyone who brings it there.

Options for supplying metallurgical enterprises with coke, including mutual deliveries with enterprises of the fuel and energy complex, and also the allocation of hard currency for the purchase of material and technical resources are also being proposed.

The Russian Government will most likely examine the problems of metallurgists this week. A special resolution is expected...

Resolution on Authors' Rights Agency Repealed

*PM3004105192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Authors' Rights"]

[Text] The Russian Constitutional Court has supported the petition of 11 people's deputies and repealed the action of the Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution concerning the Russian Agency for Authors' Rights. The Presidium had exceeded its powers. It did not have the right to "give its blessing" to the new agency's activities, still less to hand over to it some of the functions of a state department.

The court's decision has come into effect, and from this moment all decisions adopted on the basis of the Presidium's resolution are being repealed. The Russian Agency for Intellectual Property, which was created by decree of the Russian president, remains.

Minimum Wage Law Goes Into Effect

*LD0105042892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0330 GMT 1 May 92*

[Text] From today, the law of the Russian Federation "On Raising the Minimum Amount of Payment for Labor" goes into force. It is registered that from the second quarter of this year, budget organizations will establish this minimum at 900 rubles per month. This sum does not include additional payments and supplements, bonuses, and other incentive payments.

Consumer Rights Law Comes Into Force

*LD0105042992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0330 GMT 1 May 92*

[Text] The law on "the Protection of Consumer Rights" is coming into force, in keeping with which obligatory certification of all products and services to the level of world standards is being introduced in Russia.

Communist Workers Party Denies Coup Plans

*PM3004120792 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 2*

[Report by N. Garifullina: "Checked Out: No Violations. RCWP [Russian Communists Workers Party] Central Committee Responds to Justice Ministry Warning"]

[Text] Even in the present situation with its wealth of political events, the subject of the 28 April news conference given by representatives of the Russian Communist Workers Party [RCWP] Central Committee looks unusual. It was described by O. Cherkovets, one of the representatives of the RCWP leadership organ, as follows: "Not four months have gone by since the Ministry of Justice discovered what are supposedly calls for the overthrow of the current constitutional system in the documents adopted before the official registration of the RCWP."

Admittedly, the RCWP Central Committee has not as yet received the text of the official document from the Russian minister of justice, but a number of newspapers report that the young party has been charged with the fact that the emergency action program adopted at the RCWP Central Committee January (1992) Plenum contains an appeal "to armed defenders of the homeland." Its second transgression is that the plenum leveled accusations at the president.

The news conference, in which A.A. Sergeyev, R.I. Kosolapov, V.I. Anpilov, M.G. Titov, and V.P. Nosov took part, noted that when the party was being registered the government did not consider it a danger, whereas now following the gigantic rallies in Moscow involving hundreds of thousands of Russian patriots, it has sensed in the RCWP a force capable of uniting and leading the masses. The time chosen for the "warning"—the day before 1 May—was no coincidence; it was designed to intimidate potential demonstrators.

Participants in the press conference said that the charges of breaches of constitutional norms are totally unfounded. Not a single RCWP document calls for people to take up arms and overthrow the incumbent government.

The speakers also denied the accusations that the Law "On Defending the Honor and Dignity of the President" has been violated. The law speaks of defending the president as an individual, rather than his political views and the course that he pursues. It is not only the RCWP, but also many people's deputies of all levels who describe the policy of breaking up the Union and eliminating the Soviet state system started by Gorbachev and finished by Yeltsin as flouting the will of the people as expressed in the 17 March 1991 referendum, a "coup d'etat perpetrated for a selfish political purpose: To establish personal power and the power of a class that does not enjoy the support of most of the population."

These words cannot be seen as an insult, they merely note the real state of affairs.

The RCWP, which is today Russia's largest political party, numbers more than 150,000 people. Its influence in society is increasing. V.I. Anpilov said that "Working Russia" will start collecting signatures 1 May in favor of a referendum regarding the early suspension of the Russian president's powers. The same day sees the start of a campaign to collect signatures in favor of recalling

and indicting Moscow Mayor G.Kh. Popov for breaking all the promises he made to Muscovites during the election and for brutally beating up a peaceful demonstration on 23 February 1992.

Workers Party Claims Biggest Membership

PM3004144592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
30 Apr 92 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Largest Party"]

[Text] The membership of the Russian Communist Workers Party [RCWP] has reached 150,000. It is the biggest organization not only among supporters of the socialist orientation, but also among political forces of any trend. RCWP leaders said this at a news conference. They also expressed amazement at the warning that they have received from the Russian Justice Ministry. "The party has not received that document," the leadership said. It learned of its existence from newspapers and television programs. This kind of information has no legal force. This is simply intimidation, a strong-arm approach. "We know from the reports that we are being reproached for the decisions that our plenum adopted 6 January 1992. But the ministry registered our party 9 January. Did its staffers really not study our decisions during registration? I am willing to hold a seminar with them on formal logic."

Expert Explains Draft State Service Bill

OW3004173492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1453 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" No. 63—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Federation government is completing work on a draft law on civil service. One of the authors, Yuriy Rozenbaum, Dr. of Sc. (Law), comments on the bill for IF [INTERFAX]:

The methods of hiring for state service, the requirements, the promotion procedure and other issues of the cadre policy in state service have remained unchanged. The state apparatus is dominated by the old party nomenclature, and the selection of the personnel is through connections, nepotism, etc.

The civil service law is called upon to radically reform the state apparatus. The successful conduct of political and economic reforms is largely determined by the business acumen and competence of the apparatus servants and the bodies of state power and administration. Incompetence of the civil servants largely explains the slowness of the reforms being planned and their low efficiency.

The law will provide for professionalism competence and integrity to become a key to promotion through the

ranks in civil service. The systematic independent attestation of the civil servants will make it possible to cleanse the apparatus of incompetents or those who abuse their powers of office. Of particular importance will be the formal classification of the state positions. Every civil servant will be assigned a special grade, from 1 to 15, attesting to his qualification.

It is also established that only an official with the corresponding grade will be able to fill a vacant state position. Therefore, a professionally unprepared person cannot fill a post requiring skills. The classification and grading system will make it possible to address a number of other important problems, for example, retraining and still improvement, promotion, responsibility and encouragement, etc.

Of major importance will be the section that formalizes the basic rights and responsibilities of the civil servants. Specifically, this makes it possible for the civil servant not to execute unjustified or downright harmful instructions of the superiors. He can defend his opinion using law-defined procedure. But an apparatchik will only serve, not be involved in commerce, mediating or other business.

The management of the civil service must belong to the Russian president and a special body to manage this service. IF's note: The draft law on state service will soon be sent to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. One of the initiators of the law is chief of president's staff Yuri Petrov. According to him, the preparation of the act has been on since the beginning of the year. According to Petrov, as a result of the reform, "a civil servant will be responsible more to the higher-level powers than to each individual taxpayer and citizen."

Supreme Soviet

Shakhray Views 'Lame Duck' Government

PM2904154192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with State Counselor Sergey Shakhray by Sergey Chugayev; place and date not given: "Sergey Shakhray: 'Following the Congress, the Government Is Well and Truly Provisional.' The State Counselor Does Not Rule Out the Present Cabinet of Ministers' Resignation in a Month's Time and a Sharp Turnabout in Russia's Political Life"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The talks between Russia and Ukraine about the Black Sea Fleet's future, which started 29 April, were almost postponed. The reason—there was apparently nobody to head the Russian delegation. Following his resignation from the post of vice premier, Sergey Shakhray—the delegation head appointed by the president—found himself one grade below his deputies on the delegation—Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Yuriy Yarov (he was tasked with heading the delegation at the last moment)

and, according to protocol, could not have represented the Russian side on a level comparable to the Ukrainian side. We, a small group of journalists, learned this from the horse's mouth, from S. Shakhray himself, now simply a state counselor and deputy. He invited us to the Kremlin, to a session of the commission which is preparing a draft law on the cossacks' rehabilitation. But this surprising consequence of the recent struggle at the Congress forced us to revert to an analysis of the results of the forum of Russian deputies.

[Chugayev] One of the results of the Congress is obvious and indisputable—you are no longer vice premier. As regards the other results, there are differing opinions. There is the view that the president and the government emerged victorious. Do you share this view?

[Shakhray] I believe that the results of the Congress and the political situation prevailing in Russia as a result of its work have only one positive aspect. All the others are negative. The positive aspect is that the Congress played the role of a political and social safety valve. The struggle was waged not on barricades or in the streets, but within parliament's walls. Thanks to the Congress, the tension which has built up in society was partly eased, and this fact will obviously make it possible to ensure stability for a certain period of time. All the rest is illusions. Primarily the possibility of attaining political goals within the framework of parliamentary struggle. The problem remains unsolved yet again and has been driven into the darkest of corners.

Many people got the feeling that the president and the government scored victory at the Congress, but this is also an illusion, as is the impression that power is concentrated in the hands of the president and the government, that differences with parliament have been settled, and that the reform can progress. In my view, this did not happen. And this is dangerous.

Following the Congress, the Russian Government has become well and truly provisional. Hitherto it was the president's government—the locomotive of reforms, forced to make unpopular, tough, and necessary decisions, but nonetheless constitutionally protected by the opportunity to work for at least one year. But now the government is a "lame duck." The president's powers to head the Cabinet of Ministers will be terminated the day parliament adopts the Law on the Government. When will this happen? For some reason, everyone believes that it will be in three months' time—the maximum term determined by Congress. It seems to me, however, that parliament will adopt this law much earlier. It is perfectly possible that it may happen even in May. Even if the president exercises his power of veto, this will give the government a breathing space at most until mid-June.

Another feature of the "provisional" government. It is well known that the president must, within three months, submit for parliament's approval his nominee for prime minister. Under the Constitution, this must be

immediately followed by the government's resignation and a change of cabinet. Furthermore, the present government is hardly likely to suit the candidate premier whose nomination would be agreed by our present parliament.

[Chugayev] But what is happening with parliament today?

[Shakhray] In my view, an active revival of party structures banned by the president's decree is now under way within parliament's walls. A growing number of former party functionaries are now occupying leadership positions in parliamentary committees and commissions. This process is unfolding even more actively at the level of local representative power. Party nomenklatura representatives occupy on average about 45 percent of seats on soviets in Russia. There are regions where this figure is as high as 80 percent. Consequently, there is a decline of support for the president among the corps of deputies.

And the opposition is acting competently. Do you think the struggle at the Congress for the preservation of the acronym USSR in the Constitution was merely a whim on deputy Slobodkin's part? No, it was all precisely calculated. Slobodkin's supporters are perfectly well aware that there is no longer any possibility of the USSR's being revived. What they needed was a beachhead for the struggle within Russia. And they got one, by preserving the articles of the Constitution that they needed. Indeed, there remain articles devoted not only to the USSR, but to the CPSU. The culmination of this struggle will come at the end of May, when the Constitutional Court is to submit its findings on whether Yeltsin's decree banning the CPSU's activities accords with the existing Constitution. If the decree is revoked, then there could be a drastic change in Russian political life. Those behind the revival of the USSR Supreme Soviet could, for example, meet in the Kremlin next time, rather than in Voronovo, outside Moscow.

[Chugayev] Can one conclude from what you said that the party, president, government, and parliament have finally failed as executive authority? Perhaps the president has something up his sleeve?

[Shakhray] I believe that a unique opportunity was missed at the Congress to strengthen the position of executive authority. A week after it started two things became clear: Despite the devastating resolution on the course of the reform, the Congress could not question the government's credibility and could not offer an alternative Cabinet of Ministers. It seems that the parliamentary leaders were following their instinct for self-preservation. The phenomenon of R. Khasbulatov's and his colleagues' fear of the government's departure emerged. Indeed, in that event they themselves would have had to assume responsibility for Russia's economic position. This situation should have been exploited.

I am sure that if at that time the president had asked Congress for a vote of confidence in the government, to adopt the draft law on the government, which had then

been prepared, as a basis for action, and to approve Yegor Gaydar as prime minister, he would have been backed. The cabinet members and the president would have gone away from the Congress firm in the belief that they were a strong, legal government. The irreversibility of the reforms would have been largely guaranteed.

I personally suggested to B. Yeltsin that he resort to these tactics, but the view of the other politicians prevailed. They believe that the president should avoid "petty" matters and become a kind of symbol of the nation and state, the supreme arbiter in political disputes. Objectively this concept of the president's role is perfectly acceptable. But today, I believe, B. Yeltsin should not abandon the role of generator of reform. I call his decision to head the government at the most critical moment historic. No one else could have started these transformations.

In my view the president is left with just two ways of eliminating the contradictions between legislative and executive authority. The first is to try to turn the situation in his favor at the next congress. But the chances of this are not good, in my view. During the last congress there was an occasion where 649 deputies voted against a proposal by the president. And there is no reason to expect that the deputies' mood will change at the next congress. Perhaps B. Yeltsin will be able to use for a while the factor of the influence of his personality on the deputies, but this will become progressively more difficult.

The second way is a referendum on confidence in the nationally elected president. As effective a weapon as it is double-edged. It is better to implement such measures in a calmer situation than the one prevailing in Russia at the moment. But if they are to be implemented, then it should be in the summer; in the fall, at the latest. And there is still a danger of an outbreak of the kind of emotion that it would be hard to pacify.

Baburin Reviews Congress, IMF Policies

*LD3004222492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1228 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS—Press conference by parliamentary group Rossiya leader Sergey Baburin, held in the Russian Supreme Soviet today, was devoted to voters' attitude to the results of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

Relying on his meetings with voters in Omsk, Baburin said the result of the congress has been "the deepening of the crisis of confidence in all branches of power—executive and legislative."

Baburin criticised the Russian government and specifically the Foreign Ministry for its stance on the issue of the Crimea and excessive compliance at disarmament

talks and emphasised that "renewing the Cabinet of Ministers is a ripe necessity."

About his attitude to Russia's entry into the International Monetary Fund, Baburin said the coordinating council of the Russian People's Union, of which he is a leader, will consider this move at its next session to define its own position. In any case, all consequences of this step by the Russian government need to be thoroughly examined, Baburin said.

Divisions of Power at Congress Examined

*LD0105031592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 2130 GMT 23 Apr 92*

Two opinions on the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation: from Ivan Laptev, who heads the IZVESTIYA publishing firm; and Vasilii Kipetskiy, the chairman of the directorate of the Free Russia Party.

[Text] The division of executive and legislative power in Russia has not happened yet. That viewpoint, which is at variance with the official one, was expressed by the former chairman of a chamber of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Ivan Laptev. He justified this by noting that the division of power is always based on the division of property; and since in Russia some 80 percent of the property is accounted for by the state sector, it is simultaneously managed both by parliament and by the government, which constantly butt heads in this confined space. This, in the opinion of Ivan Laptev, condemned the Union parliament to conflicts with the governments of Nikolay Ryzhkov and Valentin Pavlov, who demanded extra powers, and led the cabinet of Ivan Silayev—and now the team of Yegor Gaydar—into contradictions with the Russian Supreme Soviet. Ivan Laptev did not exclude the possibility of more such conflicts in the future. Speaking of the work of the faction of the Supreme Soviet of Russia, the former speaker stressed that any faction must reflect the interests of a certain party; and if there are dozens of parliamentary parties, then they represent not party interests, but those of narrow groups of people.

The chairman of the board of the Free Russia Party, Vasilii Lipetskiy, noted the satisfaction of the board of the party with the adjustments made by the Congress to economic reform and the government reshuffle. At the same time, the chairman did not conceal his disappointment over the failure of the Congress to solve the problem of land reform, describing the ban on buying and selling land as a strategic miscalculation by the deputies. As a result, the work of the leader of the party, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, in carrying out agrarian reform is also being made more difficult.

In reference to the balance of political power at the Congress, Vasilii Lipetskiy admitted that the faction of members of the Free Russia Party was disappointed with the Deputies' Coalition in Support of Reform. Those who came out on behalf of that coalition were the same

people—extreme radicals—who had been making propaganda for dissolving the Congress, calling for an inaugural assembly, and other anti-constitutional measures. As a result, the Free Russia faction left the Coalition in Support of Reform and is negotiating with the parliamentary groups Center-Left, Industrial Alliance, and Smena on setting up a new bloc of deputies.

Foreigners Face Punitive Income Tax

*PM2404134392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 2*

[Report by K. Belyaninov: "Will We Get By Without Foreigners?"]

[Text] A new Russian Supreme Soviet law on income tax was published at the beginning of this year: A person receiving more than 420,000 rubles [R] a year must surrender to the state exactly 60 percent. The Central Bank of Russia in turn set a new rate for currencies—R100 to the dollar—and all foreigners working in Russia without exception were automatically included on the list of people with "abnormal" incomes.

"The average earning of foreigners in Moscow is \$5,000 a month, i.e. almost R500,000 at the official rate," Vladimir Oskin, an employee of the State Tax Inspectorate, said. "Calculate for yourself how much tax they must pay..."

Nothing like the "new economic policy" exists anywhere else in the world. Back in February Yegor Gaydar sent a letter to the chairman of the Central Bank, asking him to set a special exchange rate for foreigners—one to 10—and to assess the amount of tax on that basis. He did not receive a reply.

"I am sure that the majority of foreigners working here—both businessmen and journalists—will prefer to leave and not pay colossal amounts," Betsy Mak-Key [surname as transliterated], a staffer of the MOSCOW TIMES newspaper, said.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Favorably Assesses North Visit Results

*LD3004203792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Excerpts] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has completed a three day visit to the north of the country. [passage omitted] Our correspondent Yevgeniy Zherebenkov interviewed the president on his trip.

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] You know, I have many impressions. First, I was in Arkhangelsk Oblast for the first time, in Severodvinsk for the first time, in Mirnyy for the first time, and in Plesetsk for the first time, so the strongest impression was of course in Severodvinsk, a very strong impression. This really is one of Russia's—the former Union's—national riches, and we need to do

everything to support them so that while carrying out conversion and switching gradually to civilian production, the people at the same time preserve both the collective and the powerful brain center which is there. It is simply unique since there is no one in the world who makes nuclear submarines better.

I have a very good impression of the Plesetsk cosmodrome, of the rocket section, the military section, of the cosmodrome itself and how it carries out a launch. Of course this is not Baykonur, it cannot launch piloted ships; nevertheless they have already carried out 1,300 launches. Although there are shortcomings at Plesetsk, from the point of view of the electronic basis, and maybe in the social sphere, it is necessary to help as a whole. They are solving major tasks.

My strongest impression is the people's mood. It is amazing. No one in the world really knows our people. They do not know Russia's inhabitants. Having survived such a thing—January, February, March, and April—they have preserved their mood, their ability to smile, and they have not become embittered, you understand. It is simply amazing. You have seen it all for yourself. You saw how people met me.

The main thing is that virtually tens of thousands of our people are saying in unison: We will back up the reform. You hold your ground and we will support the reform. This is very, very important and gives us the strength to move the reform ahead more quickly. [end recording]

Criticizes Congress

LD3004141492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1345 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Cherepovets, northern Russia, April 30 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin believes that a Congress of People's Deputies is "a large talking-shop where little is decided". He said this on Thursday [30 April] during a conversation with workers of cold-rolling shop of the Cherepovets metallurgical complex.

Asked by workers how the destiny of the Congress is to be decided the president said that this is not within his power. But he suggested that one million signatures of voters be collected in favour of holding a referendum on a new constitution which would not envisage a Congress.

When a worker asked Yeltsin for which draft constitution people should vote at the referendum, he called on those present to support the project "that will be suggested by the president".

"Nowhere else in the world there exist a parliament and a congress simultaneously", Yeltsin said. He said the Congress was invented in the past to elect the country's president since his election by the people was impossible.

Yeltsin arrived in Cherepovets on Wednesday evening. On Thursday he visited shops of the metallurgical complex and went to Prostokvashino city district where two-storey private cottages are being built for those employed by the complex. The construction of private houses and not of highrise buildings with numerous apartments is the road to be taken by Russia, the president said.

Cherepovets is the last lap in a working tour of the Russian president which has already taken him to Arkhangelsk, Severodvinsk, and Mirnyy.

Meets Workers at Combine

LD3004163592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT
30 Apr 92

[Video report by special correspondent A. Poklad on visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Cherepovets, including recorded exchange between Yeltsin and unidentified members of combine workers during visit; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] We have just received a report from our special correspondent in Cherepovets.

[Poklad] Moving like lightning, as is so characteristic of him, and which has not allowed the team and accompanying journalists to relax, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has visited four cities and a test ground in less than three days. According to the American political lexicon, this is called shooting from the hip. Yeltsin combined speed and accuracy successfully. Having covered several thousands kilometers by air and road in 50 hours, the president has discussed maritime, earth, and space problems.

A visit to the city of metal—Cherepovets—has become a good finale of the trip. More than 45,000 people work at the combine here. Incidentally, in 1986 it was actually Yeltsin who oversaw the construction of the fifth blast furnace, and he did not feel himself a newcomer. Obviously, this predetermined the straightforward nature of his pronouncements during his visit to the combine.

[Yeltsin] Two days ago I signed in favor of increasing wages for those working in the sphere financed from the budget: the lowest wage is 900 rubles [R]—it was R342, and now it is R900. The pension was R342 and now it is R800—I have already signed for that as well.

Of course, it is difficult to live on...Of course I understand that it is difficult now, but this year is so difficult. We must live through it. If there is support, then together we will not waver. Even for such a Congress, you see—I would like to say a good word, but I simply cannot.... [laughter]

[Unidentified woman from crowd] No, but the iron and steel workers agree with you.

[Yeltsin] Yes, on the issue of the Congress, I mean... [laughter] [Yeltsin changes thought] I think that we should put the constitution to a nationwide referendum and decide everything, and there will not be any congress. [as heard]

Meets Vologda Officials

LD3004195892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Telephone report by station correspondent Yuriy Bogaturiya from Cherepovets on visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin; presented by Aleksandr Zelenkov]

[Text] [Zelenkov] The Russian president's visit to the northern regions of the Federation has ended. Our correspondent Yuriy Bogaturiya reports on the telephone from Cherepovets:

[Bogaturiya] In the second half of the day President Yeltsin had a meeting with the Vologda oblast administration, people's deputies of Russia, and representatives of Cherepovets's business circles, who are one of the largest in the region in terms of industrial potential. The circle of people invited to the mayor's office to take part in a talk was very limited, while the meeting took place behind closed doors. Nonetheless, it is known that the Vologda oblast administration insistently pressed the president to consider the question of the region's status as a northern territory, with all the economic and social privileges emerging from that.

Problems of urgent social support for education and health care workers and those of the agro-industrial complex were also raised, as were urgent measures to improve Cherepovets's ecology, and other urgent and progressive problems that would speed up reforms in the province. I do not know about the specific results of the meeting. However, appraising Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's visit to Cherepovets as a whole, I can say that he received good support from his voters. Despite the difficulties of the present day, the inhabitants of Cherepovets approve of and support the course taken by the government for the renewal of the life of society, and overall they are ready to promote reforms with both their work, their talents, and with their professional skills.

The president is taking with him to the capital many impressions, wishes, and much advice. Without doubt the trip has been enriching for him in terms of experience of the people, which is so essential for the leader of Russia, especially today, on the difficult road of renewal.

Khabarovsk Holds Antigovernment May Day Meeting

LD0105100992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0918 GMT 1 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Uri Vitrishak]

[Text] Khabarovsk (Russian Far East) May 1—The central square of Khabarovsk, for the first time in many years denied of festive attributes, looked like a red islet

here on Friday [1 May]. Although the local authorities had offered a different place for holding a May Day meeting, a few hundred people gathered near Lenin's monument, where public festivals were traditionally celebrated. The meeting was organized by the social-political movement "for socialistic justice," which unites local branches of the Socialist Party of Workers, the Russian Communist Workers' Party and other public organizations.

In their speeches orators described the policy of reforms as anti-popular and leading to a catastrophe. They demanded the resignation of Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Government, and spoke about the necessity of calling Mikhail Gorbachev to account for the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party.

Two May Day meetings held on Friday in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski were not numerous. Those who gathered in the central square of the city, met Chairman of the Regional Soviet Pyotr Premyak's speech, who spoke in favour the Russian Government's reforms, with whistles and angry shouts. When he said that "there will be no return to the previous way of life after the failure of the August putsch," people started to leave the square.

One hour before the meeting in the central square, the "Tovarishch" (Comrade) political movement held a meeting not far from the place. The speakers criticised the government and called for strengthening workers' unity in the fight for their rights.

Oil Switch Explodes at Nuclear Power Plant

LD3004183992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1513 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Reports from Russia's Interior Ministry Press Service" section]

[Text] Balakov, Saratov Region—An oil switch exploded at a nuclear power plant at 6.40 a.m. [0240 GMT] on April 29. The explosion did not start a fire. No casualties were reported. The first power unit was stopped. The reactor continues to work in its normal regime. Measures were taken to eliminate any consequences of the accident. Specialists are establishing the cause of the explosion. The case is being investigated.

Chechen Parliament Discusses Security Service

LD0105094192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1003 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Grozny—28 April the closed session of the Chechen Republic parliament discussed the national security service structure.

Khasin Raduyev, employee of parliamentary press service reported to PF [POSTFACTUM] 29 April that the deputies determined the organizational chart and the payroll of the service. The national security service was set up 3 November 1991 for the protection of the republic's constitutional system. Its aim is to combat

intelligence and subversive activities of the special services of foreign states against Chechen, to protect its economic, scientific and technical and defence potential. The main directions of activities—intelligence, counter-intelligence, combating terrorism, organized crime, conservation of official secrets.

Besides the parliamentary national security service, a similar service with the same name, set up 10 February 1992, exists under the [word indistinct] president. 29 March the Chechen Parliament ruled that the presidential security service be disbanded but this ruling has not been fulfilled. According to Raduyev, the existence of two parallel structures does not testify to the confrontation between the president and parliament. As Raduyev pointed out the legislative and the executive authorities have different approaches to the formation of the state security system.

Tatarstan's President Shaymiyev Interviewed

*MK2804134492 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 2*

[Interview with President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev by I. Brushteyn under "Corridors of Power" rubric; place and date not given: "Forever Free... Forever With Russia"]

[Text] [Brushteyn] Mintimer Sharipovich, society is animatedly discussing the course of the economic reform begun by B.N. Yeltsin. And it is natural that now, when it is undergoing its most difficult and most painful stage, voices are being heard to ask if it had been at all necessary to start it in the first place.

[Shaymiyev] For me this question does not exist. The economic reform and entry into the market are a reality which we cannot and must not avoid. We advocate a single economic area for Russia, with Tatarstan as a part of this area, and so we of course need interaction for the economy to develop normally and dynamically.

But each republic has its own path of reform with its own understanding of the market, and we endeavored back in December of last year to introduce at home those measures which are now being talked about in Russia. These are measures of social protection, control of prices, and, the main thing, assistance for production and for the producer who feeds and clothes us. Yes, let us have liberalization of prices, but a gradual liberalization. Prices must be established in a mutually acceptable manner for producer and purchaser, and not in such a way that the purchaser cannot buy what is most essential and production is curtailed. That is, realistic prices with the active participation of the state in encouraging those who manufacture good-quality and comparatively inexpensive output.

[Brushteyn] So what is the main concern of the president of Tatarstan?

[Shaymiyev] Right now, the sowing campaign; the state is fully financing the social sphere of the countryside, the preferential provision of mineral fertilizers, and the construction of roads. Our task is to help the peasant, and the choice of path—kolkhozes-sovkhozes, private farms, or the creation of associations and joint-stock societies in the countryside—is the peasant's business and his sacred right.

[Brushteyn] Mintimer Sharipovich, do you often go around the stores? What are food prices like in Kazan?

[Shaymiyev] I certainly do. I constantly visit them. Meat (beef) is 50 rubles [R], butter is R49, and potatoes and vegetables up to R2.5 per kilo; milk is no more than R2. The shelves are not empty. But of course, we are not satisfied all the same, things must be better. I am confident they will be.

[Brushteyn] Economics is closely linked with politics and interethnic relations. Three-fourths of Tatars live outside Tatarstan. Half the republic's population is made up of Russians, Ukrainians....

[Shaymiyev] This is of course a problem, but it is also an enormous wealth—each nationality and each national culture are unrepeatable. And the people of Tatarstan are not only Tatars but everyone who lives and works in the republic, and, what is the main thing, considers it to be his home and his motherland.

From the outset we approved two state languages: Tatar and Russian. And it is to the people's honor that against the background of the bloody conflicts in the CIS, no one has succeeded in igniting the flames in Tatarstan.

But let us acknowledge that very little has yet been done to maintain the Tatar culture and Tatar language, especially outside the republic. The leadership of Tatarstan is well aware of this. A World Kurultay (congress) of Tatars opens in Kazan in June. And in the future we will be sending more Tatar literature and musical ensembles throughout the world and into Russia...

And similarly for all the nationalities living in the republic. When we hold talks with the countries of the CIS we unconditionally stipulate the observance of the rights of these peoples in Tatarstan and of Tatars living among them.

[Brushteyn] Mintimer Sharipovich, here is a question: Economic and political reforms are under way...And we also welcome them and understand the need. But it is a shame when the reforms don't reach the specific individual...

[Shaymiyev] You know, such a condescending and snobbish approach to people has always been alien to me: Just wait, people say, while we, the big-time politicians, do some experimenting. And some people say outright: It's no good worrying about old people and invalids, the standard of living will fall, we are a poor country...What

do they mean by poor? It's a very rich country! And for whom are the reforms being carried out if not for the simple, ordinary man.

Take privatization. Who gets the property created by several generations of people? Is it to be sold at auction to new millionaires? And so on... Our model of privatization presupposes the unconditional priority of the labor collectives to the privatization of enterprises, the opportunity for all citizens to participate equally in this through privatization checks and accounts. And assistance to the less well-off.

[Brushteyn] Many people have been agitated by the question of the Kama Truck Plant in the republic's acquisition of sovereignty.

[Shaymiyev] I understand these concerns, but believe me, we have no intention of changing the dominating hand of Moscow for the dominating hand of Kazan. The Kama Truck Plant is a joint-stock company, and this is the main thing—it is our duty to ensure its autonomous development.

[Brushteyn] But the decline in production in the republic is assuming threatening forms....

[Shaymiyev] This is also a problem for us, although in Tatarstan the decline is half that for Russia as a whole. Out of the republic's 1,080 kolkhozes and sovkhoses, only 58 ended the year with a loss, and the total loss was not great—R17 million in all. Although here too things are not so simple. Not all profit-making kolkhozes are good ones. We must see if they are investing money in development or just eating it up. And we must have a unique approach to each kolkhoz: How much to give to whom in order to obtain a return.

It is now important to retain and reestablish the shattered economic ties. We have horizontal treaties with all regions of Russia and countries of the CIS. And reciprocal commitments and deliveries must be carried out without fail. Otherwise there will be no market but chaos.

[Brushteyn] Mintimer Sharipovich, the president naturally has many meetings and contacts with people. What do people most often come to see you about?

[Shaymiyev] Many things. People are worried, for instance, by the rise in crime, where we have unfortunately been unable to achieve a breakthrough. And again, interethnic relations, although we are keeping control of the process and extinguishing passions. In general, people want a peaceful, stable existence.

[Brushteyn] And how do you yourself feel? How do you live?

[Shaymiyev] The same as everyone else, with the same problems and concerns. I can't complain about my health. Indeed, the president is attacked right and left, by

nationalist forces and radical democrats. But our position is fundamentally centrist; the position of the president and the leadership is a firm one. No one will succeed in shaking it.

[Brushteyn] You frequently go about without protection?

[Shaymiyev] But whom should the president protect or guard himself against? My protection is the whole people.

[Brushteyn] How are your relations with Boris Nikolayevich taking shape?

[Shaymiyev] Businesslike, respectful. Tatarstan's position is for unity with Russia and a strong union. The Tatar people have acquired freedom forever, and our union with Russia and the Russian people is forever.

We favor the delegation of power from below, not from above. A voluntary union is the strongest and the most reliable. Where can Tatarstan separate to? Into the sky? Into the ground? We have lived together and we will live together. There are issues which it is advisable to settle only at a central, all-Russian level: defense, common communications, the emission of money, and so on. Some things must be under joint management, those same enterprises of the military-industrial complex. While for many things, it is advisable for the republic to act autonomously. Everything must be done sensibly.

[Brushteyn] What does the president wish our readers?

[Shaymiyev] Peace and tranquillity. I would wish for every individual to feel himself to be a part of his own people, to assist in the revival of his own nation and simultaneously to sense his belonging to the great community—all mankind. Because the world is so small, no one can isolate himself from other people or keep himself to himself.

Rostov Deputies Oppose Government, President

*LD0105093192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1003 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Rostov-on-Don—Many Russian Federation's People's Deputies from Rostov region are in opposition to the Russian Federation's government and president.

At a news conference which took place on April 29. Six of 11 deputies condemned the government and president of the absence of a real program of reforms and of the anti-people character of the course they follow. According to the deputies, this course puts the majority of the republic's population in a humble position and leads to its impoverishment, which will not allow the people to take part in privatization. Government's actions lead to the further breakdown of economy and threaten the country with a catastrophe.

Leonid Ivanchenko, Russia's people's deputy, said, among other things, that a hope for foreign billions is a delusive one and also said that in doing this the government completely disregards the country's own resources. Igor Bratitsev, co-chairman of the parliamentary group Russia's Communists, said that to save the situation, it is necessary to restore control over economy, which means its closure for the Western capitals and concentration of effort on setting up of self-governing people's enterprises.

Yury Sidorenko, Russian Federation's supreme soviet's commission in charge of ethics, reckons that the government should resign and free the place to a government of national salvation. Deputy Yevgeniy Tarasov condemned President Yeltsin for violation of main items of his pre-election campaign, as president started the reforms without achieving satiation of the market with the goods and without waiting for appearance of the proprietors' class in the republic. In Tarasov's opinion, these should become all the citizens of the republic.

Deputy Yuriy Kuznetsov predicted the forthcoming social shocks because of the people's dissatisfaction with the president's and government's policy. Deputy Vladimir Lipyavko condemned the republic's authorities for lack of consideration of the agriculture's needs and called a stake on the development of farmers' movement a delusive hope.

The Rostov deputies assess the results of the 6th Congress as positive ones, as, to their opinion, at this congress, for the first time, an opposition took place not on the party principle, but on the attitude towards what the government does. This, according to them is indicative of appearance of a civilized opposition, without which any society is inconceivable. That is why Russia's most deputies do not support the idea of dissolution of the Congress, as under conditions of a strong pro-government lobby in Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, only the Congress can critically assess the government's activities.

Congress Disappoints Nizhny Novgorod Voters

PM3004135992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 1

[Interview with Russian People's Deputy Yuriy Ryzhov in Nizhny Novgorod by correspondent Andrey Shishov; date not given: "Deputy Returns Home. Don't Expect Fruit From Ownerless Land"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Nizhny Novgorod—"I went to the Congress with the idea that 'you cannot build a better life on ownerless land.' And I returned with it...

That was the response which Russian People's Deputy Yuriy Ryzhov gave to your correspondent's question regarding the mood in which he returned home to Nizhny Novgorod. The question of land and land ownership is, in the deputy's opinion, a basic, fundamental

issue today, as it was 75 years ago. It must not be ignored. Regrettably the Congress failed to resolve it. Why?

[Ryzhov] Because the Congress was and remains a gathering of people who are not for the most part interested in implementing radical economic reforms, above all in agriculture. Various means of manipulating public consciousness are being devised and attempts are being made to incline it to support the existing state of affairs. For instance, the idea is being put about that private land ownership will cause land to be sold off to foreign capital and bring about the enslavement of tens of thousands of people. Yet it is in actual fact the current situation with agriculture that is giving rise to a land monopoly. Kolkhozes and sovkhoses are, after all, no more than effective ownership by a narrow group of leadership personnel.

Land in Russia is in a sorry state. No one is really keeping an eye on it.

But this is precisely the argument cited by agrarian deputies! They think that farmers are unable to feed the country in present conditions. And since they cannot work the land, they will sell it to people with greater opportunities. That will supposedly mark the start of man's exploitation by man.

Needless to say, not everyone who wants to will be able to own land. People have different educations, experience, skills, and liking for hard work. Anyone who receives land may sell or lease it and thus become a hired hand, but this is a natural process of social development. As for exploitation, it exists even now—only in hidden form. And that is far more dangerous!

[Shishov] What do your voters say about the Congress?

[Ryzhov] They are deeply disappointed. They think that it is time to adopt a new Constitution. I myself am now concentrating on three problems. A set of normative documents linked with protection of intellectual property, problems of conversion, and state policy in the field of science and education must first be formulated and adopted. We will not advance without that.

Compensation for Striking Teachers Increased

OW3004115292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1024 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [29 April] the council of Kemerovo region decided to increase teachers' salaries to the size of miners' wages in the Kuznetsk coal basin as of the next academic year and pay one month's salary as compensation to all participants in this month's strike of educational workers.

Local deputies believe that the prolongation of the labor action was provoked by the local administration that refused to enter talks with the strike committee. The

regional administration announced that the promise of compensation to strikers is illegal and will not be carried out.

Plans for Siberian People's Congress Viewed

*LD3004083092 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1859 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tomsk—According to Boris Perov, Siberian Independence Party leader, his party plans to hold the Siberian People's Congress in the near future.

As Boris Perov, Siberian Independence Party leader and Tomsk regional soviet deputy, said at a session of the regional soviet on April 28, the Congress should become the supreme organ of power in Siberia. According to Perov, the Siberian Territories' Deputies' Congress which took place in March this year in the city of Krasnoyarsk has revealed anti-people and anti-Siberian core of the local power organs, which did not want to defend Siberian interests and which express the interests of privatizers from the big Russian road. [sentence as received] From Perov's point of view, the IMF attitude towards Russia testifies to a possibility of continued

robbing of Siberia by new bosses through their Russian salesmen. In his words, the Siberian people has a full right to dispose of the colonial power structures and set up its own ones which would answer the interests of Siberia and Siberian people. Perov also said that Siberian independence party will support any actions of civil non-obedience against the colonial power of the Russian center in Siberia.

As Perov told PF [POSTFACTUM], Siberian Independence Party, headed by him was set up in 1990 and has branches practically in all areas and regions of Siberia. At present, the party's main program principle is setting up of an independent Siberian state and refusal from the privatization scheme proposed by the Russian leaders. According to Perov, privatization should follow Siberian independence declaration and introduction of its own currency. In his words, Siberian Independence Party is supported by directors of large industrial enterprises of Siberia. As observers note, Perov's announcement did not find support among the regional Soviet deputies, whereas Khusain Ponomarev, Tomsk regional procurator, who spoke at the session, said that he was going to apply to the regional soviet with a request of bringing an action against deputy Perov.

International Affairs

Kravchuk on CIS, Nuclear Security, Fleet

LD2704214792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The Italian newspaper LA STAMPA has published an interview with President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk. We are offering for your attention a summary of that interview, which has been prepared by Natalya Paratash.

[Paratash] The Commonwealth of Independent States cannot survive without mechanisms and control bodies, President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk stated in his interview. But I do not think, he stressed, that we will live better if we leave the CIS. The Commonwealth is imperfect but, thanks to it, the states can discuss and solve urgent problems. We do not put forward ungrounded claims, continued Leonid Kravchuk. We, for example, demand that the property of the former USSR should be divided. We lived together over 70 years but now, when the new states have appeared, everything should be fairly divided. Naturally, the debts as well, [word indistinct] property abroad and the rest. But Russia objects. Who is impatient in this case? Some people would want everyone to keep quiet and Russia to speak on behalf of everyone, stressed Leonid Kravchuk. It would possibly appease the West but in such a case it is necessary to define that it is Russia and not Ukraine that is in the wrong.

Touching on the problem of the Black Sea Fleet the president stressed that 70 percent of all surface ships of the former USSR were built on Ukrainian shipyards. The Ukrainian people believe that Ukraine has the right to a part of the Fleet but Russia says no, and as soon as we make a step it takes everything under its control. [Word indistinct] is needed in politics.

Speaking about the nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk stressed: Let us assume that we remove all the nuclear weapons from Ukraine and become a nuclear-free state. It is what we want. But what guarantees will there be for our security? Germany's security is for example guaranteed by NATO. Who will assign [as heard] Ukraine's security? Russia? It is possible that we would agree, but Russia keeps putting forward territorial claims to us.

At the end of the interview to the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA, President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk confirmed that Ukraine intends to introduce its own currency. If the ruble had the strength of the dollar or the mark we would not be doing this, he said, but the ruble has lost its value. Besides, we simply have not got it. All the mints are in Russia and we have not received a single ruble from Russia since 1 January of this year, President Leonid Kravchuk stated in an interview to the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA.

Military Agreement Signed With CSFR

LD0105113792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zaika for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, April 24 (TASS)—Prospects for cooperation between the Czechoslovak and the Ukrainian military departments on a mutually beneficial basis were discussed at the talks between Lt-Gen Georgiy Zhivitsa, the acting chief of General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the CSFR minister of defense and head of the general Staff of the CSFR Armed Forces [Lubos Dobrovsky].

During the talks questions were examined of the logistics of the troops in both countries, in particular, of the provision of air defense as well as flight safety units in the frontier air zones shared by the two sides. An agreement was reached on exchange of scientific information, joint training of specialists, mutual aid between civil defense units during works for elimination of consequences of natural disasters or major production accidents. As the talks concluded, an interim agreement on bilateral military cooperation for 1992-1993 was signed.

The reports by Russian radio and television that this interim agreement will enable Ukraine to supply arms to CSFR are not true, according to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry press office.

PRC Delegation Visits Kiev, Signs Agreement

AU3004182092 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] On 29 April, a governmental delegation of the People's Republic of China headed by Professor (?Huang Yu Chen), deputy chairman of China's State Committee for Science and Technology, left Kiev.

In the course of the visit, an intergovernmental agreement on scientific and technological cooperation was signed. The head of the Chinese delegation (?Huang Yu Chen), in an interview with our correspondent, stressed that this document opens up new possibilities to expand mutually advantageous cooperation both at a governmental level and directly at the level of scientific organizations. It also provides for further intensification of contacts between China and Ukraine.

This was the first agreement signed between the two countries after the proclamation of Ukrainian independence and its recognition by China.

National Affairs

Crimean Referendum May 'Provoke a Civil War'

LD3004210892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] According to unofficial sources, a number of deputies of the Crimean Supreme Soviet intend to put another question for the planned referendum on the independence of the peninsula. They will raise this problem at the parliament session on 5 May. These deputies suggest that the referendum ask whether the residents of Crimea want to remain in Ukraine or unify with Russia.

Prominent politicians have expressed the fear that the results of the referendum could provoke a civil war on the peninsula. They suggest that the moratorium be delayed for at least six months to allow a search for a new political solution of the problem.

As you know, the Ukrainian parliament on Wednesday [29 April] passed a law on the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. It determines that the territory of Crimea cannot be changed or handed over to another state unless its people agree.

Villages Confront Each Other With 'Grudges'

AU3004182492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Clashes between groups of young people from the villages Pryvitnyy and Zelenohirya and the Crimean Tatars who settled there could easily end in a bloody battle.

Local residents who gathered to clarify their relations with the Tatars who arrived from all nearby villages, after all, exercised enough common sense not to let the situation become extreme. They only limited themselves to expressing grudges against one another.

After representatives of the Crimean Council of Ministers and of the republic's Administration of Internal Affairs arrived at the scene of the conflict, an assembly of the residents was held in Pryvitnyy. The assembly warned that it would seek deportation of all those who continue to further interethnic hostility.

Representatives of both sides created a civil guard that will be in charge of maintaining public order in the villages.

Deputy Minister on Armed Forces Organization

LD1604084492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0014 GMT 16 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, 16 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Ukraine is in need of armed forces which will act as a guarantor of its

independence. This was stressed in an interview for the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA by Lieutenant General Ivan Bizhan, the Ukrainian deputy defense minister. He was appointed to this post in December 1991. Previously, he went through all the ranks of military service rising from platoon commander to army commander in Sverdlovsk. He had also been deputy chief of the main directorate of the general staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

Bizhan revealed that operational commands [operativnoye komandovaniye] will be created to replace the Odessa and Baltic Military Districts. The main staff [glavnyy shtab] of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Defense Ministry will be created on the basis of the headquarters [shtab] of the Kiev Military District. He noted that "we tried to involve officers who served here previously. The main criterion is the professionalism of an individual officer or general. Not everybody fits in with the necessary requirements. We pay attention to age and we cannot but take into account convictions. If somebody is indifferent to the idea of the creation of the Ukrainian Army or if he rejects the idea at all, he must make his position clear from the start".

The general expressed his disagreement with the fact that Russia and other CIS countries should have their own groups of forces [grupirovka] in Ukraine to defend their interests. "Ukraine is part of the CIS. The state leaders agreed that the border between Russia and Ukraine remains 'transparent' and that links between the two countries are not being broken off. If Russia is worried about a threat from the West, then this kind of potential danger also exists for Ukraine. Yet times are different. Ukraine has repeatedly stated that she is striving for a nonaligned nuclear-free status of a neutral state. Its Armed Forces will carry out only defense functions," the Ukrainian deputy defense minister noted.

Media Colleagues Swear Allegiance to Ukraine

AU3004182192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] On 29 April, our colleagues—reservists—from the State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company of Ukraine swore allegiance to the people of Ukraine.

The ceremony was held to the sounds of the National Anthem in the building of the radio broadcasting main technical center that was adorned by Ukraine's state flags.

The first to sign the text of the oath was Mykola (?Shmakevych), major of the reserve and president of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Company.

Altogether, more than 350 of our colleagues swore allegiance to Ukraine.

Byelarus**Kebich Not Confident in Economic Union Treaty**

OW3004165492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1453 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" No. 63—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "By now hopes that the former Soviet republics would sign an economic union treaty and preserve a unified monetary system have been reduced to zero," said Byelarus premier Vyacheslav Kebich at a meeting with the Minsk state executive committee deputies. He believes that the republic "does not have a way out other than the creation of own money."

According to Kebich, "there are agreements with foreign companies, but they require large spendings of hard currency. However, said the premier, the national bank and the Finance Ministry and the State Economic Planning Committee and other interested ministries and agencies of the republic "are working on the question of the expediency and the terms for a monetary reform in the republic, the introduction of national money and setting of its initial rate of exchange vis-a-vis other currencies." Kebich empathized that "the first practical step toward the Byelarus money is the introduction of multiple coupons with some functions of money in May."

Touching on transport development in Byelarus, he said that buses will soon be produced by the Belavtomaz and trolleybuses. In addition, he said that it is planned to build a car assembly and a steel factory in the town of Smorgon to produce cars.

The premier said to the deputies that the cabinet is undertaking a special government program to develop entrepreneurship in the republic. According to him, the government supported the proposal of the Byelarus business circles on a joint tender for the saturation of the consumer market with required raw materials and consumer goods. Now, said Kebich, work is being undertaken to carry it out.

The republic, reminded the premier, has a fund for the financial support of businesspeople, who seek to support the structures producing goods and services. The same funds Kebich suggested should be created by the executive committees of the local soviets at all levels. The cabinet head also said that the government is considering the issue of the creation of a state body for the support and development of business.

Court Action Over Chernobyl Compensation Possible

PM3004151392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
30 Apr 92 p 1

[Correspondent Aleksandr Ulitenok report: "Counting on 'Gentlemen' in Minsk"]

[Text] The Belovezhskaya Forest collapse of the USSR has resulted in a number of complex problems for Byelarus and for the other former Union republics.

One of these problems is very keenly felt on the latest anniversary of the tragic Chernobyl disaster. I would recall that although the area of land affected was less than 1 percent of total Russian territory and 4 percent of Ukrainian territory, it was 24 percent of Byelarusian territory. The republic is patently incapable of recovering from this blow on its own, but the Belovezhskaya agreement seems to have finally closed the book on the idea of all-Union aid to Byelarus.

But I. Smolyar, chairman of the republic parliament's special Chernobyl commission, thinks differently. His opinion is actively supported by the general public and amounts to the following. The 100-billion-ruble debt should be paid off by Russia, which has declared itself to be the lawful successor to the USSR and has assumed jurisdiction over the ministries and departments responsible for the April 1986 disaster. I. Smolyar believes that, in the event of a refusal to settle the matter in "gentlemanly" fashion, Byelarus will be forced to lodge a suit with the International Court against the two neighboring republics which were directly to blame for the colossal damage suffered by the republic.

Border Crossing Reopens; Private Travel Banned

PM3004155392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Mikhail Shimanskiy report: "Road to Warsaw Open, But Border Still Closed to Private Individuals"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA reported that as of 10 April the Brest city authorities intended to temporarily close the Western border—suspend traffic through the "Warsaw Bridge" customs checkpoint. This decision has not entered into force.

The article met with a broad response from readers living all over our Commonwealth and particularly in Russia. They all have the same question: Since traffic through Brest is closed, can we plan tourist travel abroad now? We hasten to reassure our readers: The "Warsaw Bridge" is operational. The Byelarus Government did not agree to its being closed.

So there are no problems now? If only that were so. The main issue has not yet been resolved—thousands of our tourists still have to languish for days in long lines at the "Warsaw Bridge" and endure various inconveniences before receiving the long-awaited "go-ahead" to pass through.

G. Shkurd, head of the Byelarus Customs Committee, said frankly in an interview with IZVESTIYA that it has not proved possible to secure order at this crossing, but the normal operation of the border crossing must be ensured. According to G. Shkurd, the situation at the customs zone is now this: The area has been cleaned up, decontamination has been carried out, and running repairs have virtually been completed at the customs post. All this has been done without stopping traffic flow.

Today the "Warsaw Bridge" lets through 60 buses per day on average, roughly 20 more than was previously the case. The lines have shortened considerably. The situation is more difficult with cars. It has proved possible to let roughly 400 through per day on average. But they are mainly vehicles carrying people on official business.

"What if a resident of the CIS, say, received a private invitation from Poland. Would he now be able to travel across the 'Warsaw Bridge'?" I asked G. Shkurd.

"For the time being the border is closed to people with private invitations. That is the decision of the Brest Oblast Soviet Executive Committee. Why? Quite recently there was a tremendous influx of private transport. The point is that the crossings into Poland in Ukraine and Lithuania were closed. Naturally 'private citizens' rushed to Brest. A complex sanitary and epidemiological situation developed and virtually all the roads on the approach to the border crossings were blocked because of the heavy buildup of traffic."

Territorial Claim of Vilnius Area Discussed

OW2904171692 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1522 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Intellectuals in Minsk have recently been making statements to the effect that Byelarus should revise its borders with Lithuania, which some journalists have interpreted as attempts to improve the reputation of Nikolay Dementer, an ex-chairman of the Byelarusian parliament, held responsible for a sensational statement issued by the parliament presidium after Lithuania had proclaimed its independence. The statement, passed at a presidium meeting urgently called by Dementer, probably at the insistence of the USSR leadership, read that, in case Lithuania declared the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact invalid and left the USSR, Byelarus would demand the restoration of the border which had existed before 1940, when Wilno (Vilnius) and the area around it formed part of the Byelorussian SSR.

IF's [INTERFAX] note: Between 1919 and 1939 the Wilno area was part of Poland. After the USSR had annexed Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia, which also belonged to Poland at the time, the region was

incorporated in the Byelorussian SSR by Stalin's decision. After World War II, however, it was transferred to the Lithuanian SSR.

In March 1990 democratic forces in the USSR, including many intellectuals in Byelarus, saw Dementer's statement as one of the conservatives' usual tricks, an attempt to strangle young democracy in Lithuania and its people's striving for independence. These days, however, the idea has a different provenance. Addressing students at the journalism department of the Byelarusian University, Boris Sachenko, chairman of the Byelarusian Writers' Union and one of the authors of the republic's law on languages, said: "Lithuania borrowed its name of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and made Wilno its capital but had no sufficient right to do so. Byelarus has an historic right to the Wilno region. Wilno used to be one of the treasuries of Slav culture, along with Prague, Cracow, Warsaw, St. Petersburg, Kiev, and Moscow. It also provided a link between the east Slavonic world and European civilization. I am positive that justice will be restored and that Lithuania is not going to fight to get those lands back."

So far not a single political organization in Byelarus has openly demanded that the Vilnius area be given over to Byelarus. Nor is it likely that the Byelarusian Popular Front, which scores more and more points every day, will make such a demand, at least not in the near future, for it used to be influenced by Lithuanian Sajudis, which gave considerable assistance to its Byelarusian counterpart.

IF note: The Byelarusian Popular Front had its founding congress in Vilnius and still has some of its publications printed in the Lithuanian capital.

Experts believe revision of the border may soon be demanded by communist organizations or independent politicians. This may happen either during the upcoming presidential election or in case of a nationwide referendum on confidence in the parliament and government. Thus Professor Ivan Kucharov, leader of the All-Byelarus Slavonic Assembly and one of the ideologists of the former Communist Party of Lithuania, who emigrated to Minsk after the failure of the August putsch, has already made statements in the press to the effect that the Wilno region should be returned to the "Slavonic world." He insisted that a referendum be held for the purpose among the region's population.

At the same time, it is feared by many that the revision of the Byelarusian-Lithuanian border might lead to a conflict similar to that in Nagorno-Karabakh. Such is, for instance, the view taken by Georgiy Tarazevich, an ex-chairman of the Byelarusian parliament. In an interview he gave our correspondent Vyacheslav Zenkovich he said: "This is a very complicated issue, but the main problem is that the population of Vilnius and the Vilnius region will hardly be willing to change their citizenship."

The position of the Byelarusian authorities has repeatedly been stated by parliament chairman Stanislav Shushkevich

in his speeches and interviews: he stressed the necessity to keep to the terms of bilateral and other agreements proclaiming the existing borders unchangeable.

Germany Sends Aid for Chernobyl Children

LD3004175592 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1611 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By BELTA-TASS]

[Text] Brest, April 30 TASS—Over 20 tonnes of humanitarian aid from Germany has been delivered to the town of Vysokoye in the Brest region in Byelarus on Thursday [30 April]. The shipment is intended for the children who have been moved to Vysokoye from areas in Byelarus contaminated with radioactive fallout.

The charitable action is being carried out by the German association "Civil Aid Initiative" from Frankfurt-am-der-Oder with the support from the German city's municipal police and the Byelarusian charitable foundation "Chernobyl Children" helped to implement the project.

The shipment, which is to be followed by other shipments of food and essentials for Byelarusian children, contains radiologically clean food products, clothes, school books, sportswear and implements and toys worth a total of 250,000 German marks.

Moldova

Situation in Dniester Region 'More Stable'

LD3004162192 Moscow *Mayak Radio Network*
in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] According to reports from Dubossary, the situation in the Dniester Region has become somewhat more stable in the past 24 hours. Only sporadic firing has been noted.

However, Dubossary Town Council Chairman (Vyacheslav Finarin) described the conflict as smoldering, and he does not rule out an exacerbation of the situation in the next few days. He links this with the fact that the Moldovan side has moved its subunits into combat positions.

Separatists Attack Police Near Cocieri 30 Apr

AU3004141992 Bucharest *Radio Romania Network*
in Romanian 1000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] According to a report from the Radio Chisinau correspondent, separatist paramilitary forces launched a heavy attack over last night against positions defended by units of the Moldovan Ministry of Interior near the villages of Cocieri and (?Corseva). All kinds of weapons were used. The separatists made an incursion with armored vehicles in the village of (?Corseva). The attack, which lasted for about one hour and a half, was repelled.

No casualties were reported from among the police forces, but civilians might have been hurt.

Cossacks in Dniester Not To Face Charges

LD2704172992 Moscow *POSTFACTUM in English*
1417 GMT 27 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Rostov-on-Don—The Cossacks who have volunteered to fight in an armed conflict in the Dniester region would not face criminal charges. Leader of Don Cossacks Viktor Ratiyev told PF [POSTFACTUM] that that promise was given to him by Russian Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov as well as his deputies during their personal meetings at the 6th Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

Defense Minister on Army Transfer From Dniester

AU3004150292 Bucharest *ROMPRES in English*
1343 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 30/1992—In an interview with "ARMATA ROMANIEI" weekly the defence minister of the Republic of Moldova, Ioan Costas, referred to the organization of his ministry and of the Armed Forces showing: "Until now we have succeeded in peacefully transferring the military forces on the right bank of the Dniester of the former Soviet Union under the jurisdiction of the republic. The transfer de facto and de jure of the units on the right bank of the Dniester is a success. I would like to mention that part of the armament—I mean armoured cars, tanks and ammunition—has been taken out of the Republic of Moldova. We have filled in 30 percent of the key offices of the Defence Ministry and of the staff. The nucleus is already formed. The fights in the Dniester region create a very difficult situation. We urgently need staff, as many natives as possible. Those who were enrolled in the Army of the former Russian empire are coming back home. Another 900-1,000 officers are to arrive. They will take up jobs in the ministry or the units under formation."

As for the capability of those returning to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova the colloquitor said: "They are not trained for a national Army. We do not know how good they are, if they are professionals. Another difficulty we encounter is that Moldova, as it is today, has not had its Armed Forces. Owing to this many commanders, even at a high level, do not understand what an Army needs, what it means to a state, to a people. We have been a region of an empire, we have not been a state, we have not had a military industry, nor the organization and experience of a sovereign state."

Answering a question about the cooperation with the Romanian Armed Forces Mr. Costas said: the cooperation between the Defence Ministry of the Republic of Moldova and the National Defence Ministry of Romania has political coordinates. Because now there are two Romanian states and we must cooperate as

defence ministries of two countries. But we are one and the same people, one and the same nation. Our general orientation is towards the experience of the Romanian Army. We want to finish quickly with what is coming from the imperial Army. As for the training of officers, strategy, operative art and tactics we orient ourselves towards the military values of the Romanian people."

More on Army Transfer

AU3004215392 Bucharest Radio Romania Network
in Romanian 1900 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Chisinau radio correspondent Victor Osipov report]

[Excerpts] Today marks a month since the declaration of the state of emergency in Moldova. Both the armed conflict in the Dniester region and efforts to solve it were in the focus of world public opinion throughout this period. We would have liked the world to become acquainted with us under different circumstances, but, unfortunately, this is the reality, and it has to be changed because few people in their right mind would want a military conflict in this corner of Europe.

Thus, what is the current situation? It seems that calm prevails in the area of the city of Bender. Some paramilitary formations have been disarmed. Behind those who are defusing the fields, the peasants—despite any risks—have begun to till the lands. Last night, however, there were armed incidents in most of the other conflict points. [passage omitted]

Thus, subversive acts once again cause great uncertainty about the further development of events in that area. Some observers—among other things—are spreading the idea that the third and only force interested in escalating the conflict was the (?mafia), which uses the current situation for illegal profits. However, many things make us doubt this affirmation. We should also mention that, under the pretext of strengthening security, groups of five armed people are formed in enterprises in Bender. These formations have been joined by approximately 200 separatist combatants. According to Moldovan mass media, meantime the Russian 14th Army is in the process of turning into a national Army of the self-proclaimed republic.

Immediately after the Chisinau four-party meeting by the ministers of foreign affairs, a group of 80 members of the Ukrainian popular defense arrived at the trenches on the left bank of the Dniester River. At the helm with the member of the pro-communist organization from Lvov, Oleg Vitovich, people's deputy in the Ukraine, they participated in the acts violating the cease-fire accord. Vitovich he is aware of the impossibility of the political recognition of his phantom republic, but that he would at least like an economic and partial military recognition on the part of the CIS states.

It is clear that, for the third time around, the representatives of Tiraspol are boycotting the meeting of the mobile group of the observers commission. Thus, it

seems that the plans on the separation of the Dniester region is subjected to modification, namely there are some open questions about the sincerity of Tiraspol's tendency toward conciliation.

We have to mention that, during a number of consultations with various political forces of Moldova, the president of the republic, Mircea Snegur, is seeking new opportunities to peacefully resolve the crisis.

Opposition Calls For Withdrawal From Commonwealth

OW3004173292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1453 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" no. 63—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The developments in the Dniester river valley and the foreign policy orientation of Moldova were in the center of attention during the Wednesday [29 April] meeting of President Mircea Snegur and the leaders of the Christian Democratic Popular Front—the biggest opposition force in the country.

The front leader, former Prime-Minister Mircea Druk stressed that in the present conditions the official opposition supports the president and his efforts to restore "legitimate government bodies throughout the territory of Moldova". He described as timely the presidential decree introducing the state of emergency throughout the country and stressed the necessity of doing everything to implement it.

The opposition leader also pointed to the necessity of speedy talks with Russia on the withdrawal of the 14th army from Moldova which he called the key condition of stabilizing the situation.

Front leaders also spoke for the speedy introduction of a Moldovan currency and the beginning of actual privatization. They stressed though that denationalization can start only after the issue of citizenship is settled and a clear borderline is drawn with Ukraine.

The opposition advised the president to immediately pass a decision on the withdrawal of Moldova from the CIS which they accounted to the necessity of reorienting the economy to cooperation with the West. The front leadership welcomed the efforts of President Snegur to sign a treaty of fraternity with Romania and described the document as an important step to integration in the world community.

Delegation Head Describes Ankara Visit, Talks

MK3004091592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 3

[Aleksandr Tago report under "Moldova" rubric: "Turkey Believes that Fraternal Gagauz Should Be Law-Abiding. And Promises To Support Them"]

[Text] A Moldovan parliamentary delegation has been to Turkey on an official visit and is satisfied with the results of this trip. "In Ankara we had a number of meetings with the official Turkish leadership and representatives of business circles, where we discussed questions of possible cooperation in various spheres," Alexandru Mosanu, chairman of the parliament of Moldova and leader of the delegation, told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent on his return from Turkey. In his opinion, the conversations with the chairman of the Turkish Great National Assembly, the prime minister, and the foreign minister were particularly fruitful. "We made maximum use of our visit to inform the public of the true situation that has taken shape in the Republic of Moldova and the events taking place here," the parliamentary speaker stressed.

According to Alexandru Mosanu, Moldova's official position met with understanding in Turkey. He also reported that issues concerning the observance of human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities in Moldova were broached during the talks. The Turkish side was primarily interested in the position of the Turkish-speaking population—the fraternal Gagauz—in the republic, and expressed its concern about the conflicts occurring in the southern areas of Moldova, where the Gagauz live. The Turkish leadership was satisfied with the information presented to it on this score, and stated that it is "prepared to grant the assistance the Gagauz need by signing treaties with the Republic of Moldova." The assistance which Turkey intends to grant the Gagauz must be seen as a constituent component of the plan for cooperation with Moldova. The Turkish side called on the Gagauz "to be loyal and law-abiding citizens of the Republic of Moldova." Leaders of the five leading Turkish parties with whom the Moldovan delegation met are of the same opinion. They stated that "Turkey never supports separatism anywhere, it only recognizes legally formed governments, and is prepared for multi-lateral cooperation with them."

Members of the Moldovan delegation refuted information from certain foreign news agencies that at a news conference in Ankara they apparently announced the speediest unification of Moldova and Romania. Vladimir Kapanzhi, a member of the delegation, remarked that when they were answering this question the Moldovan parliamentarians only agreed that the issue is fairly pressing, but he stressed that "its solution depends on the people's will." "Our top-priority task is to do all we can to preserve the integrity and strengthen the independence of the Republic of Moldova," Vladimir Kapanzhi noted. "As for relations with Romania, obviously we are in favor of integration and fraternal contacts with this country, and we have long-term plans on this matter which must be taken into consideration."

Ukraine, Moldova Claim Section of Railroad

*OW2904195592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1812 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan authorities described the transfer of a 115 km-long part of the railroad Oknitsa-Mamaliga in the north of Moldova under Ukrainian control as "inexpedient". Earlier, the head of the Ukrainian Lvov railroad sent an official letter to Chisinau with such a request. Moldova believes that its volume of shipments on that part of the railroad is bigger than that of Ukraine. The Moldovan side explained its position on the issue in a response letter to president of the Ukrainian railroads administration.

As first deputy director of the Moldovan railroad Grigoriy Mikenberg told IF [INTERFAX], Moldova took control over that part of the railroad in 1980, when it was "in a catastrophical condition". Over the past ten years Moldova invested over 20 million rubles in its development, he stressed.

Kazakhstan

Further on Turkish Prime Minister's Visit

Joint Communiqué Issued

TA0105113792 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network
in Turkish 1000 GMT 1 May 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who is continuing a tour of Central Asian Turkic republics, concluded his contacts in Kazakhstan and proceeded to Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan. On Demirel's last day in Kazakhstan, a series of cooperation agreements and protocols were signed between the two countries. Zafer Kiraz from the Turkish Radio and Television [TRT] team reports the following from Ashkhabad:

[Begin Kiraz recording] Agreements and protocols pertaining to the talks between the two sides were signed on Demirel's last day in Kazakhstan, and a joint communiqué also was issued. The documents covering various topics were signed by Demirel, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, Agricultural Bank Director Coskun Ulusoy, and TRT Director General Kerim Aydin Erdem on behalf of Turkey, and by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, and relevant ministers on behalf of Kazakhstan.

In a statement after the signing ceremony, Demirel remarked that the two brotherly and friendly countries will develop their relations more satisfactorily with agreements based on mutual interests. Noting that the goodwill displayed is as important as written documents, Demirel declared that all the reasons, means, and opportunities exist for the development of relations. The prime minister pledged that Turkey will provide all the support it can to help the Turkic republics in Central Asia benefit from the advantages of world peace, prosperity, and democracy.

In his statement, Nazarbayev said that Kazakhstan is signing such comprehensive and concrete documents with a foreign country for the first time, adding that his country will receive considerable aid from Turkey with these agreements. After the signing ceremony, Nazarbayev gave Demirel a horse as a gift.

Meanwhile, a joint communiqué also was issued in connection with Demirel's visit and the talks conducted in Kazakhstan. The joint statement points out that the talks between the two sides were beneficial and were based on the principles of equality, trust, and mutual interests. The statement lists the areas of agreement between the two countries as follows: Kazakhstan will participate in the summit meeting to be held by the Central Asian Turkic republics in [word indistinct] this year; the cooperation between the two countries will be expanded and intensified; economic investments will be encouraged and protected; cooperation will be conducted in highway transportation, aviation, development of small-and medium-sized industry and banking;

cooperation in culture, education, and science and technology will be further enhanced; and within this framework, Turkey will provide quotas and scholarships for 2,000 Kazakh youths during the 1992-93 academic year. According to the agreements, Turkey will extend an Eximbank credit of \$200 million to Kazakhstan.

Goodwill agreements also were signed to allow Turkish firms to open oil fields in western Kazakhstan; to participate in investments such as the building of power stations, oil refineries, and ports in certain parts of the country; and to transport Kazakh products to the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea and market them in the free trade zones in the Black Sea and Mediterranean shores. The two sides also reached an agreement on the restoration of the tombs of ancestral Turks Aslan Baba and Ahmet Yesevi. It also was agreed to accord Turkish-Kazakh international university status to the Ahmet Yesevi state university in Turkistan.

Included in the agreements and protocols signed between the two countries is the preparation of special programs by the Kazakh television corporation and the TRT Turkish Avrasya [Eurasia] television for the Avrasya broadcasts. [passage omitted]

Developments 'Event of Our Era'

TA3004192492 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 1700 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Rahmi Aygun report from Alma-Ata]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Expressing his observations and thoughts on his Central Asian tour to reporters in Alma-Ata last night, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel explained that the situation in the Turkic republics is very complicated. He said: I am happy because of the opportunities presented by this situation; but, I am also worried about the consequences of our failure to use these opportunities successfully. Demirel continued:

[Begin recording] These countries are not yet aware of the value of a free and democratic regime. The people are not aware. The people are still intimidated. They are not yet well aware of the new developments. [passage omitted] We are facing a very important picture. If things progress positively, I see a great opportunity for Turkey, for these countries, and for the human race as a whole. As I have been trying to impress on everyone, we are trying to help these countries gain a personality. In other words, we are trying to free them from the burden of the former regime.

Furthermore, they are not aware of the transitional new regime. Democracy and freedom are pretty words, but we are facing a situation where people who are not at all aware of those concepts do not know what we are talking about. They are more concerned about their hunger.

Kazakhstan produces 20 to 22 million tonnes of wheat. It is four times the size of Turkey. Its oil reserves exceed those of Saudi Arabia. This is an Asian situation. In my

opinion, this is the event of our era. The black African awakening took place a long time ago. The Asian phenomenon is new. This is not China or Indo-China. It is a matter of enslaved nations gaining freedom and the possession of their own resources. The Soviet Union plundered those countries. It took 4 million tonnes of cotton from Uzbekistan; ores and meat and dairy products from Kyrgyzstan, which has 15 million head of livestock; and all the wealth, including oil and natural gas, from Kazakhstan. In return, the Soviet Union gave those people a pair of shoes and a suit of clothes.

This is not a matter of hostility. I am trying to assess the situation with great objectivity, and I am being careful not to lose myself in it. [end recording]

Stressing that the Asian phenomenon is the event of our era, Demirel said that it must be very well analyzed. He declared: Yes, communism has collapsed and it cannot return. That fact cannot, however, be viewed as the victory of capitalism and democracy. That must still be proven. The world is facing a very important situation.

Pointing out that he is extremely pleased with what he saw during his tour, the prime minister declared: I hope that luck has turned for Turkey, for Turks, and for Turkish history.

President, Premier Attend Agricultural Congress

*LD0105091392 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network
in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Apr 92*

[Text] The second congress of representatives of the republic's peasant farms, leasehold farmers, and agricultural cooperatives took place in Alma-Ata today. A review report was delivered by (?Dzhanbosov), director general of the agro association.

Prime Minister Tereshenko informed delegates about measures being taken by the government to develop support for peasant farms. Economic reforms have begun to be implemented more energetically in the agrarian sector recently. However, the problems are not diminishing. Delegates persistently raised the question of introducing preferential terms for credit and taxation and abolishing state procurement, which operates in many oblasts, for peasant farms. They made changes to the statute of the association, elected its ruling bodies and adopted an appeal to the Supreme Soviet, President and government of the republic.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev addressed the Congress.

Media Chiefs Conclude Cooperation Agreement

*LD0105100692 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network
in Russian 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] With the aim of practical implementation of the accord on cooperation between the governments of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, talks were held in Moscow between Kuanysh Sultanov, minister of press and mass information of our republic, and Mikhail

Poltoranin, minister of press and information of Russia. As a result an agreement was concluded on cooperation and on reciprocal deliveries of material resources for the present year. The cooperation is based on the principles of non-interference in each other's internal affairs and not allowing the press and mass media to be used for calls for violating the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of the contracting parties.

Tajikistan

Further on Continuing Rallies in Dushanbe

Decisions 'Will Mean Nothing'

*OW3004190192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1411 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The resolutions of the Tajik parliament's session which opened in Dushanbe on Thursday [30 April] will mean nothing to the opposition, said Khadzhi Akbar Turazhonzoda, the leader of the republic's Muslims. He told IF [INTERFAX] that the results of the session were easy to foretell: the deputies will support the current government consisting of communists, which will not lead to a normalization of the situation.

Dushanbe has become the venue of several meetings organized by supporters of the government, by the opposition and by the opponents of all meetings. The latter, mostly students, demand that the authorities restore peace as soon as possible. According to various sources, the meetings involve from 50,000 to 100,000 people who have gathered in front of several government buildings.

Khazhi Akbar Turazhonzoda denied rumors about his involvement in the organization of the opposition meeting. He said that he is acting in strict accordance with the law and officially is not a member of the opposition.

He also said that on Thursday he discussed with Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev the demand of those supporting the government that he resign as the Muslim leader. The talks were wasteful, he said. The authorities were dissatisfied with information that on May 4 the elections of Tajikistan's new Muslim leader will be held, and insisted that Turazhonzoda resign and do not claim on the post of the kazi during the election. This, said Turazhonzoda, is an instance of state interference in the affairs of the clergy.

The Tajik Muslim leader also said that the situation in Kulyab, south of Dushanbe, has deteriorated. In Kulyab, he said, the communists have launched a campaign of open terror against the supporters of Kaziati and of the Islamic Revival Party. During clashes, several people were wounded, said Turazhonzoda.

Muslim Leader Heads Opposition

OW3004173792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1453 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" no. 63—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Rakhman Nabiyev press-secretary Makhmud Sakhobiddinov said in an interview with IF's [INTERFAX] Nikolay Golovkin that the kazi (chief of the Tajik Muslims) Khadzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda is now posing as the de-facto head of the opposition. Shakhbiddinov said that the Islamists (members of the Islamic Revival Party) are now the chief force opposed to the legitimate authorities.

IF learned from sources in the kaziat that the talks between the president and kazi on Thursday [30 April] did not produce agreement: the kazi refused to resign to quell passions.

According to Turadzhonzoda, on Thursday he met with President Nabiyev to discuss the demand of the pro-government rally that the kazi resign. The talks were unsuccessful. The authorities were not satisfied with the information that a new kazi would be elected on May 4 and demand that he does not run at the election.

Nabiyev's press-secretary rejected reports on the news programs of Channel 1 and 2 of the Russian TV that the rally on the Shakhidon Square wants the president's resignation.

Anti-Yeltsin Rallies Denied

LD3004162292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1500 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of Tajikistan has denied a Russian television report that current rallies in Dushanbe have demanded the resignation of President Boris Yeltsin and the restoration of the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile the heart of Dushanbe is fully blocked by pickets of the confronting sides. A third neutral rally has started today in addition to the many days-long actions of the opponents and supporters of the government. City residents demand an end to disturbances and call for the prevention of a civil war.

Roundup of 29 Apr Events

LD3004183592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1513 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe—On April 29, approximately 7,000 city residents came to Sadridin Aini Square in Dushanbe to demand that both rallies be dissolved. City residents also called against the convocation of a

Supreme Soviet's session. To their mind, the convocation of the session may cause another turn of confrontation, in case the session cancels its recent decisions on suppression of the rally by supporters of the former chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan. Should participants in both meetings refuse to discontinue their actions, and the situation in the city fails to relax, the city residents are prepared to restore law and order through their own means. On April 29, city youth activists blocked the local TV centre for several hours demanding that air time be provided for their leaders. By the evening, they had dispersed.

During April 29, talks between representatives of an alternative meeting in Ozodiy and Shakhidon Squares continued in the Kaziat—the religious management board of republican Muslims. Participants in the rally in Ozodiy Square are demanding that Kazi Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda resign. Should he do so, they promise to suspend their demands for the cancellation of a resolution adopted by the 13th session, and restoration of Safarali Kenjayev as chairman of the Supreme Soviet. At a meeting with opposition leaders on April 29, Turadzhonzoda stated that only the Council of Ulems could demand his resignation. Turadzhonzoda is prepared to establish a schedule for new elections for May 14, despite the fact that he still has 2 years remaining out of 5 to head the office. Local observers believe that the Kazi can submit his resignation without any fears since there is no doubt that he will be re-elected by a majority of believers on May 14. As of April 29, the total number of participants in the meeting in Ozodi Square amounted to 10,000 people. They are armed with sticks. Passers-by approaching Ozodi Square are searched by participants in the rally—supporters of Kenjayev. Bags and cars are checked. On April 28, Kenjayev supporters burnt copies of the 2nd issue of TAJIK-PRESS, the first independent news-analytical weekly in Russian, calling it a fascist newspaper. Opponents of the opposition also burnt several copies of poems by Bozor Sobir, a board member of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan. The following slogans were proclaimed: Down with Islam!, Down with Democracy which split the Soviet Union!, Long Live Safarali Kenjayev—Tajik Commissar Kataniy! Among the meeting's leaders are secretaries of the district and city party committee of the Kulyab Region, as well as former deputy chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan Abdullo Achilov, who announced the creation of a Republican Socialist Party. Dushanbe enterprises' employees were sent by the city authorities and republican trade union committee to take part in the Ozodi rally.

The number of opposition supporters has considerably increased as of April 29 amounting to 35,000 people. Approximately 7,000 opposition guard members—Fidoins (fanatical would-be martyrs)—wearing white bandages with the letter F around their heads, surrounded the presidential palace and blocked its entrances. On April 29, acting Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Akvarshu Iskan-darov held talks with President Rakhman Nabiyev and

Turadzhonzoda. The awaited opening of the session failed to happen for unknown reasons. The session is expected to commence on April 30.

Nabiyev Talks 'Without Results'

LD3004212492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Tajikistan President Rakhman Nabiyev today met Kazhdi Akbar Turadzhonzoda, head of the republic's Muslims. According to the latter, the talks ended without results. The fact is that the authorities are insisting on more than just the resignation of Kazhdi Akbar Turadzhonzoda. They also are demanding that he does not put forward his candidature at the coming election of a new head of Muslims. This means that the state is interfering in the activities of the priesthood.

The republic's Muslim leader also revealed that the situation in Kulyab, which is situated to the south of Dushanbe, has been sharply aggravated. According to him, a campaign of open terror led by Communists has been unleashed against the supporters of the office of the Kazi and the Islamic Party of Resurrection. Information available to the Muslim leader reveals that clashes have taken place in Kulyab and there are wounded. This information was supplied by INTERFAX.

Opposition Deputies Absent

LD3004202892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1952 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By KHOVAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent Vitaliy Zhukov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe April 30 TASS—The Tajikistan parliament session continued its work on Thursday [30 April] but most of deputies from the opposition bloc were absent from the session.

Prior to endorsement of an agenda the parliamentarians urged the republic's President Rakhman Nabiyev to make an estimate of the political situation and inform them of measures being taken to stabilise it as soon as possible.

The president came forward with specific proposals which were brought up for the session's consideration. In particular, he suggested a presidential form of government to Tajikistan for a period of up to six months and instructing the procurator's office of the republic to investigate the circumstances of the seizure of a group of republican parliament members as hostages by opposition forces and to institute criminal proceedings against the culprits.

Nabiyev also addressed a meeting on Ozodi Square during one of the session's intermissions. Addressing those present, he said the political situation in the republic is being aggravated of late, the economic crisis is mounting, people's living standards plummeting, and one rally being followed by another. He thanked those

present on the square and said the people of Tajikistan would find strength to reach civil accord.

The parliament session passed a law introducing changes and addenda to the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan, concerning the introduction of a presidential form of government.

The session adopted a telegram addressed to President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, assuring him that a televised report about an alleged demand by those taking part in the meeting about his resignation was a sheer invention.

The Tajikistan parliament session continues its work.

Presidential Rule Imposed

LD0105092292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0857 GMT 1 May 92

[By KHOVAR correspondent Galina Gridneva—TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe May 1 TASS—Parliament introduced presidential rule in Tajikistan on Thursday [30 April] evening after passing relevant amendments to the constitution of the republic.

President Rakhman Nabiyev was given constitutional rights to control legislative, executive and judicial branches in the republic, the right to suspend any political party and movement, to impose a moratorium on rallies and demonstrations. The functions of the parliament and its presidium were sharply curtailed.

According to the president and most deputies of the parliament, this extreme measure was prompted by a sharp exacerbation of the political situation in the republic and the growing wave of protests which have a negative effect on the socio-economic situation and the international prestige of Tajikistan.

The details of deliberations held behind closed doors are not known to journalists. According to opposition leaders, most deputies from the democratic faction, including religious leader of Tajik Moslems Khodzhi Akbar Turadzhonzoda, do not take part in the session.

On Friday parliament was to continue discussing issues related to elaborating a mechanism of presidential rule and forming a national army. The president instructed the prosecutor of the republic to begin investigation into an incident on Shakhidon Square on April 21 when a group of parliament members was taken hostage by opposition protestors.

It has just become known that a break was announced in the session to allow authorities to hold the next round of talks with the representatives of two opposing sides, each holding its own rally.

Nabiyev Attends Ozodi Rally

OW3004193292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1817 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of Tajikistan has accepted President Rakhman Nabiyev's proposal for temporary presidential rule in the republic and made the necessary amendments to the Constitution. President Nabiyev said the measure was required by the "critical" situation in Tajikistan, in part, the confrontation of rival political forces holding rallies in Dushanbe.

On the same day President Nabiyev appeared at a rally of pro-government forces in Ozodi Square in front of the building of parliament. He expressed his support for the demonstrators, who, he said, sought to enhance the constitutional system and the unity of the Tajik people.

The rally by the opposition in Shakhidon Square in front of the presidential residence lasted for a month. President Nabiyev failed to meet with participants in it.

Opposition Working To Reduce Tension

OW0105111992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1017 GMT 1 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's political opposition is holding a conference in Dushanbe on Friday (1 May) morning to coordinate actions in connection with the parliament decision to introduce presidential rule in the republic for half a year, said chairman of the Tajikistan Democratic Party Shodmon Yusupov in an interview with IF [INTERFAX]. According to him, the leaders of the Democratic Party, the Islamic Revival Party and the Rastokhez popular movement plan to work out a common plan of actions to prevent a mounting of tension in the republic.

Yusupov noted that his party planned to suggest the resignation of President Nabiyev and the creation of a "popular trust coalition government capable of taking the republican situation under control."

The current leaders cannot be on that government, says Yusupov. In turn, the leaders of the Democratic Party and other opposition parties are also ready to refuse to participate in the government. Massive rallies are continuing in Dushanbe, despite the introduction of presidential rule, of the supporters, opponents or the government and of the opponents of all rallies.

A number of government buildings have been blocked. Our correspondents called Gafar Saydov, a staffer of the presidential press-service, over the telephone, Saydov and another 35 staffers have been for 3 days in the Government House. He told IF that they viewed themselves as "hostages of the rally." A statement he sent to the Supreme Soviet emphasizes that "the actions of the

opposition are nothing but an insult and an impingement on the rights, honor and dignity of people."

Acting chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet Akbakhlo Iskanderov, members of the parliament presidium and republican government are holding talks on Friday with representatives of the opposition rallies and the supporters of the current government. No results have been reported.

Because the parliamentary leaders were absent, the Supreme Soviet session could not start work on midday, Friday.

On the previous day the parliament passed a law to introduce a half-year presidential rule in the republic.

Thursday Tajik President Nabiyev addressed a pro-government rally on the Ozodi Square. He thanked the rally for "leaving their homes to defend justice, the legitimate government and president."

The president emphasized the need to create a "national guard of the Tajik president" and noted that every government must know how to defend itself.

The president also noted that since Tajikistan is an independent republic, the kaziat must leave that of the Central Asia. [sentence as received]

In an interview with IF the Tajik Kazi Khadzhi Akbar Turadzkhonzoda described the desire of the state bodies to control the kaziat as "barefaced interference into the affairs of the clergy and the desire to control it."

Opposition Releases 'Hostages'

LD0105105292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1021 GMT 1 May 92

[By KHOVAR correspondent Galina Gridneva—TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 1 May (TASS)—As a result of the republican leadership's latest round of talks with opposition leaders, a group of staff from the presidential and republican government apparatus has been released. They were taken hostage by the organizers of the meeting in Shakhidon Square as a result of the blockade of the government building.

For almost 48 hours, 41 people—rank and file employees and members of the interdepartmental security staff—were kept isolated within the building and given only water. It is an unprecedented incident when one takes into account that there were women among the hostages as well as three people's deputies, whose status confers immunity. The actions of the opposition aroused the indignation of the right-thinking section of the population of Tajikistan.

In an appeal to the president, citizens of the country demand that those guilty of violations of the law and of human rights be brought to account.

Draft of New Constitution Published

LD3004133392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1212 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By KHOVAR News Agency correspondent Nabu Karimov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe April 30 TASS—A draft of the Tajik constitution was published in Tajikistan on Thursday [30 April] for a nation-wide discussion. It confirms the adherence of the Tajik people to ideals of democracy, guarantees rights and freedoms and the right to happiness and well-being.

The draft was approved by the presidium of the Tajik Supreme Soviet and the constitutional commission and a decision was adopted to hold a nation-wide discussion of the draft before July 1, 1992.

After the discussion, the draft will be submitted to the republican parliament for consideration, taking into account proposals and critical comments voiced by the people.

In December, after the new constitution is adopted, general elections to the Mili Majlis (National Assembly)—the highest legislative body—will be held on a multi-party basis.

Defense Chief Issues Appeal to Servicemen

PM3004103592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 1

[Appeal by Major General F. Niyazov, chairman of the Republic of Tajikistan Defense Committee: "We Trust and Expect!"]

[Text] Dear Sons of Ours,

Military service has always been the business of real men: It is difficult and responsible work which demands self-sacrifice, fortitude, courage, and the ability to surmount all difficulties. Tajik soldiers have always been made of such stuff.

Today, for well known reasons, it is much more difficult for you to serve. You have felt the full weight of our troubled times on your shoulders.

These difficulties have not affected the Army alone. You will be aware that our republic is also now undergoing a very profound crisis. Great effort will be necessary to improve the economy and relations in society, including relations between people of different nationalities, and to sustain the high level of moral and spiritual values characteristic of the Tajik people.

The leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan is doing all it can to make our state strong, prosperous, and capable of protecting itself against all adversity. This will be attainable when every man proves himself not just a real worker, but also a skillful soldier.

That is why I am passing on to you today this behest on the part of the older generation: The years of army service should temper and teach you to bear difficulties and help you become true defenders.

Remember that unworthy conduct never becomes a man, particularly when that man is a soldier. Remember that you are emissaries of the Republic of Tajikistan and be proud of your people and their centuries-long history. Help and support one another in all good and noble deeds and cherish your honor and dignity.

Sons, we all await your return after successful completion of your service. We trust and expect that you will be able to discharge our behest.

[Signed] Major General F. Niyazov, chairman of the Republic of Tajikistan Defense Committee

Uzbekistan

Karimov Lauds Turkish Economic Model

OW2904172592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1522 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at a Tuesday [28 April] press-conference on the results of the visit to Uzbekistan by Turkey's premier, President Islam Karimov said that the republic, having a high economic potential, has good possibilities to break the present-day economic deadlock by using the expertise of Turkey and its progressive economic model. According to the president, the young sovereign state can shortly resolve the problems that accumulated for decades and join the community of developed countries.

Placing an accent on the Turkish economic model Uzbekistan has embraced, Karimov said that it calls for an efficient use of labor and natural resources. He described as priority task to use them sparingly. Turkey has been surging ahead economically during recent years, said Karimov, and first of all because of the use of progressive technologies, recycling of wastes and the attraction of foreign investment. Uzbekistan should assimilate this experience, said the president.

The Turkish premier expressed readiness to help Uzbekistan that is now an independent country. "President Karimov and I discussed a broad range of issues. They are complex, naturally, but not insurmountable," said the premier. Touching on the issues of state relations, he emphasized that broad prospects are opening up for further cooperation.

IF's [INTERFAX] note: During the visit by Turkish premier to Uzbekistan, nine agreements on bilateral cooperation were signed, including a banking agreement,

credit documents and those on air and land transport. The Turkish embassy was inaugurated in Tashkent.

The Tashkent authorities made the Turkish premier an honorary citizen of Tashkent for his big contribution to friendship between Turkey and Uzbekistan.

PRESIDENT DEFENDS MASS MEDIA

Karimov signed on Tuesday a decree on priority measures of state protection of the republican mass media under the conditions of a transition to market relations. The document calls for 100 mn. [million] rubles in extra appropriations from the republican budget in 1992 to cover the rising publishing costs. It was recognized as necessary to provide for subsidies for these objectives in the budget, says IF's Sergey Grebenyuk.

Under the decree, it is planned to exempt newspapers and magazines, publishing houses and bookshops and the Uzbek radio and TV company from the VAT [value added tax] and to cut taxes on periodicals, instruction and children's books. Hard currency funds will be appropriated for the purchase of TV and radio and printing equipment to the mass media.

Wages and salaries of the staffs of the Uzbek radio and TV company, national news agency, the central apparatus of the republican publishing committee, the editorial boards of district, municipal and regional newspapers will be increased by 50 percent on the average on May 1.

Entry Restrictions Imposed on Foreigners

LD3004184592 Moscow *POSTFACTUM* in English
1513 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tashkent—On the decision of the Uzbek president, the entry of Afghans and other foreigners, except CIS citizens, to the Uzbek territory through check points has been restricted. Foreign delegations, which come to

Uzbekistan at the invitation of state institutions, and students returning from vacations will be let in without restrictions. As far as other categories of foreign citizens are concerned, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry will make decisions on each case individually.

Resolution Allows Volunteers To Serve in CIS

PM0105093992 Moscow *KRASNAYA ZVEZDA*
in Russian 30 Apr 92 p 3

[Lieutenant Colonel V. Astafyev report: "First Draft Into Own Army, But Volunteers May Be Sent to CIS Joint Armed Forces"]

[Text] Tashkent—An Uzbek Cabinet of Ministers resolution has been published "On Discharging Into the Reserve From the Armed Forces, Border, and Internal Troops Servicemen Who Have Performed Their Prescribed Period of Active Military Service and on the Routine Draft of Citizens for Active and Alternative Service." The resolution says that draftees will be drafted into troop units and formations of the armed forces, national security service border troops, Uzbek Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops, and CIS Strategic Forces stationed on the republic's territory on the basis of the exterritorial principle of staffing.

Authorization has also been given for a draftee to be sent voluntarily or on contract to units of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Strategic Forces and also to units of the Western and Northern Groups of Forces and the Navy (barring units in the Black Sea Fleet and Caspian flotilla).

This is the first time that such a resolution has coordinated the work of all state structures and public organizations involved to varying degrees in organizing the draft. The Uzbek Ministry for Defense Affairs, the Ministries of Public Education, Public Health, Internal Affairs, Culture, and Trade, the republic prosecutor's office, etc., have been made responsible for efficiently organizing the draft and providing it with legal, cultural, and social support.

Armenia

Iranian Peace Effort in Armenia Continues

LD0105000192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT
30 Apr 92

[Video report by correspondent V. Nazaryan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Video shows damaged buildings] These pictures were shot, not in Karabakh, but in Armenia's Idzhevan-skiy rayon, which borders Azerbaijan. Last week, virtually the entire republic's border area came under intense bombardment from the direction of Azerbaijan. There is devastation and casualties.

Agricultural work has been interrupted everywhere, from north to south. The scale of military operations and the categorical rejection of cease-fire talks indicate only one thing: the Azerbaijani authorities are doing everything possible to draw Armenia into a large-scale military confrontation. This is despite the immense efforts being made by the world community to extinguish the flame of conflict.

[Video shows Velayati news conference in progress; Iranian flag and pictures of Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders on a wall]

How can one ignore here the mediating mission of Iran and the attempts by that country's diplomats to bring about a cease-fire that is violated each time by the Azerbaijani side? Tehran's active peace mission in the region continues.

An embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was ceremonially opened today in Yerevan. [video shows ceremony]. The 36-year-old diplomat (Bahram Gasemi) has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. An embassy of the Republic of Armenia will be opened in Tehran in a few days. The ceremony marking the occasion of the official opening of the Iranian Embassy in Yerevan was attended by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. [video shows Ter-Petrosyan speaking]

Contamination Levels in Chernobyl Area Reported

PM2904135592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT
26 Apr 92

[From the "Itogi" newscast: Video report by T. Mitkova, identified by caption]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Video shows N.M. Sorokin, general director of Chernobyl nuclear power station]

[N.M. Sorokin, general director of Chernobyl nuclear power station, identified by caption] I would say that the station is not operating at zero level, but at less than zero level. It is producing nothing, but uses about 20 megawatts from the grid. The reason for the station being shut

down is as follows: After the well-known events at the Leningrad power station, we shut down the third power unit, the last one still in operation, 11 April in order to carry out supervisory checks and preventive work. The result was that defects were identified, necessitating a long stoppage to eliminate them.

[Mitkova] Literally in the last 24 hours we have received news that the station will be shut down for six or seven months. The technical problems are closely linked with financial and political problems. The station is virtually operating at a loss. Tremendous amounts of money are needed to maintain and repair it. Spare parts are needed, some of which only Russia can supply. Here are a few statistics: Roughly 4,500 people work here, 500 of whom came through the accident; the average wage is about 9,000 rubles.

[Sorokin] In different circumstances the salary would probably be a very good one, but it is poor consolation to people. We have not had qualified specialists come to us for a long time, and we have a tremendous shortage of specialists.

[Mitkova] Everyone here has his own meter indicating how many roentgens he has been subjected to. The annual dose set by the International Atomic Energy Agency is no more than five rems or roentgens. But people here do not like to speak of radiation or worse—a possible repeat of that horror.

In a hall like this—except it was the fourth power unit, now inside the sarcophagus—the instrument needles zoomed around. People who had spent years persuading us that a catastrophe was theoretically impossible also zoomed around. Those people who six years ago conducted the experiment on the leadership's instructions have already been reprimanded for criminal negligence. Although it has already been established that the reactor design made no provision for fail-safes in the event of this kind of accident. Although existing fail-safes not only were unable to shut down the reactor, but on the contrary, spread its discharge around. Although the power unit's operators shut down and protected the station's first, second, and third power units.

A great deal has been written about the fire fighters, but there has been nothing about Aleksandr Lirichenko. It is now time. In a room like this—except it was in the fourth power unit—where the turbogenerators were located, he disconnected the hydrogen cooling these generators on the night of the accident. Why? Because the roof was burning and the two generators had turned into two hydrogen bombs.

Now let us go a little further down the so-called gold corridor.

Here is the reactor room, where the third power unit's reactor is now dormant. There it is in the depths, the work of man, created in a society where the level of technology, the economy, and science were paradoxically unable to keep pace with what they had created.

[Igor Gramatkin, reactor shift boss, identified by caption] It was not the reactor but the system that designed, built, and ran it that blew up.

[Mitkova] Our journey ends at the grave of operator Valeriy Khodimchuk. He was left there beneath the ruins, while behind that 4-meter concrete wall you have the reactor.

Our dosimeter is reading 800 microroentgens per hour compared with a background radiation level of 15 microroentgens in Moscow. Behind me lies the sarcophagus enveloping the fourth power unit at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. But there are places within the 30km zone where the level of contamination is, needless to say, far higher.

You can stand on this viewing platform for no more than five minutes. Virtually all the fuel remained within the reactor, all 180 tonnes of it. The temperature is just 45 degrees Celsius, but the reactor is not dead. Every day Japanese television cameras film it. People are also allowed in there—expeditions from the Kurchatov Institute.

Some 500 meters from the sarcophagus there is a memorial alleyway. First came these 14 plaques bearing the names of station personnel who died. But there is also another row near the helicopter launchpad. [passage omitted] [video shows various scenes in and around Chernobyl nuclear power station]

Azerbaijan

Agreement on Transfer of Troops Reached

LD3004225592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2010 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] An agreement has been reached between Moscow and Baku on a staged transfer of all general purpose troops units stationed on Azerbaijan territory to Azerbaijan jurisdiction.

Servicemen Opposed To Transfer of Facilities

LD0105111992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1843 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—The deputy commander of the Transcaucasian Military District said that some military facilities could be given over to Azerbaijan, but only after negotiations between the military commanders and the republican government.

On April 30 Deputy Commander of the Transcaucasian Military District Lieutenant-General Sufiyev Beppayev also told PF [POSTFACTUM] the following: The commanders of the Transcaucasian Military District were stunned at the decision of the Azerbaijan authorities to

disband the Baku military garrison. Republican authorities intend to leave only the headquarters of the Fourth Army deployed in Azerbaijan under the district command. As for the rest, including the well-publicized Saliyan Barracks housing a sizable number of military facilities, the government is going to have them privatized.

According to Beppayev, the command is not going to give over anything for free, and the transfer of the Saliyan Barracks is out of the question.

Beppayev also deplored that such important decisions were passed by the republican authorities without any heed of the military district command. Beppayev also said that some automatic weapons were missing from the depot of the tank regiment included in the twenty third division deployed in Gyandzha (12 automatic guns and 38 pistols were found missing). No signs of robbery were detected. The keys for the depot were kept by the commander of the artillery-rocket unit Major Belonozhko. The Division Commander Major-General Viktor Pakhomov is keeping Belonozhko under arrest. According to Beppayev, the Army Command does not fully control the situation in military units and became more lenient with subordinates at all levels. He said that the District Command and the CIS Air Force Command intend to undertake some steps to strengthen the Army Command.

Clashes Around Nagorno-Karabakh Reported

OW3004111092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [29 April] three Armenian home guards were killed and five wounded when they repelled Azeri attacks on Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. Both attacks made during the day with the backing of 10 armored vehicles were rebuffed. One vehicle was burned, according to well-informed sources in Yerevan.

One more person was killed and 18 wounded in an Azeri shelling of the town on Wednesday [29 April].

According to the same sources, there was also an Azeri attack on the village of Kirintak, Shusha region, that was repelled.

Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan reports six killed and 12 wounded Azeri troops during an Armenian attack last night on the village of Naryjalar, Mardakert region. No losses of the Armenian side are reported.

Two more people died and seven were wounded when Armenians opened fire at Azeri communities in areas bordering on Karabakh: Fizulil Ter-Ter, Shefeg, Zeiva, Seidimli, Abdal and Gyulably.

On Wednesday night several villages in border area of Azerbaijan: Kazakh, Tauz, Kubaltin and Zangelan came

under fire from the territory of Armenia. One person was killed and at least six wounded. Communities of Zangelan region also came under fire from six military helicopters, the defence ministry reported.

G. Aliyev Interviewed on Current Work, Plans

PM0105121592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 1 May 92 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Geydar Aliyev, chairman of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Supreme Majlis, by Vladimir Sheleketov; place and date not given: "In Nakhichevan I Only Work"—first paragraph is ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA introduction]

[Text] Geydar Aliyev's rating today is one of the highest in Azerbaijan. A former member of the Politburo of the former CPSU Central Committee of the former Soviet Union, he is now chairman of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Supreme Majlis. A section of society sees him as someone capable of instilling order and ensuring security in Azerbaijan, as he has demonstrated in Nakhichevan.

[Sheleketov] So then, Geydar Aliyevich, can we expect to see you in Azerbaijan's top echelons of power in the very near future?

[Aliyev] I have not said this and do not say it. You must not rush events, particularly as I am very concerned with the problems of Nakhichevan, which are dear to my heart.

[Sheleketov] If you had been here in January 1990, might what happened then have actually happened at all—the local population "broke open" the border at Dzhulfā...

[Aliyev] Alas, this was a natural phenomenon. It is another matter that the command acted not quite sensibly. For 70 years the people had been divided in two, and relatives had no opportunity for contacts. Such an opportunity has emerged now, and I will not venture to condemn this.

[Sheleketov] What is your attitude to the fact that Russia has placed the border under its jurisdiction?

[Aliyev] I must say that this is an abnormal phenomenon. If troops of one sovereign state are on the territory of another sovereign state, which is what Azerbaijan together with the Nakhichevan Republic is, then this must be conditional upon appropriate treaties, agreements, documents. There are none. Russia has appropriated the right to inherit all the Armed Forces. Let the specialists say how lawful this is. From the state-legal viewpoint, this is an anomalous phenomenon. Whom are today's border guards guarding? The Azerbaijani state? Who asked them to do this? Can we demand that the troops be redeployed? Indeed we can. This will be perfectly legitimate.

But we understand perfectly the realities of our life. Only yesterday we had a unified army. The process of the

USSR's disintegration is a long and painful process. Today many republics have proclaimed themselves sovereign. But there is still a very long way to go to full independence. It is still necessary to attain it. I will repeat: Everything must be normalized in accordance with today's realities. I believe that Russia's government and president must, jointly with the heads of the other states on whose territory troops are stationed, define their status. We discussed this question at a session of the Supreme Majlis 26 October 1991. Moscow's reaction to this was extremely negative. At the All-Army Conference they did all they could to win over both Nakhichevan and me. But why, in fact? For the USSR has disintegrated, so what claims can there be now?

[Sheleketov] What, in your opinion, should be the status of the Russian troops stationed in Azerbaijan—mercenaries, instructors, or something else?

[Aliyev] Time will show. The 41st Border Detachment is 40-percent undermanned. Why not make up the shortfall with draftees from Nakhichevan? We have human resources. What is more, you pay soldiers 400-500 rubles. We propose doing this without payment. At the same time we would train our own cadres in case your detachment is redeployed elsewhere. But our proposals do not meet with a response. Why? Do they not trust us?...

[Sheleketov] Geydar Aliyevich, after defining the status, how acute will be the question of taking an oath to the Azerbaijani people?

[Aliyev] We will not be in a hurry with this at present.

[Sheleketov] What can you say about the Nakhichevan administration's material and technical support for the detachment?

[Aliyev] Times are hard for us all. But since the border troops are financed by Russia, let it maintain them. The detachment is supplied with foodstuffs, clothing, fuels, and lubricants from Moscow. As for the rest, we will give what assistance we can.

[Sheleketov] Geydar Aliyevich, a question, if I may, of a personal nature, a purely human question: Where do you live, and how do you spend your leisure time?

[Aliyev] I have nothing here. I have an apartment in Moscow, where my children live. In Nakhichevan I live with my niece. There are seven of us in a "Khrushchevian" jerry-built three-room apartment. There is frequently no electricity, gas, or water. We have to work by the light of a kerosene lamp and bring water from the yard. Food—we eat what everyone eats. I have no cultural life here. Only work.

Geydar Aliyev declined to answer some questions. He cleverly evaded some, revealing himself to be a diplomat and politician of the highest class. Who knows how his new rise will affect the fate of Azerbaijan and the whole of the Transcaucasus? Well, as Geydar Aliyevich likes to say, we will not be in a hurry, and time will show.

Mamedov Accepts Iranian Ambassador's Credentials

NC0105113192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Yakub Mamedov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, received 'Ali Akbar Nihavandian, Iran's newly appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, to Azerbaijan. The new ambassador presented his credentials to Mamedov.

Yakub Mamedov congratulated 'Ali Akbar Nihavandian on the occasion of his appointment as ambassador and said that he is confident that bilateral relations will be further improved. He also wished the new ambassador success.

Ambassador Nihavandian conveyed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's greetings and said that he will work to establish more fruitful relations between Iran and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Guseynaga Sadykhov and presidential adviser Vefa Kulizade attended the meeting.

Georgia

State Council Extends State of Emergency, Curfew

LD0105112892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1044 GMT 1 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 1 May—The State Council of Georgia has extended the state of emergency and the curfew in the republic's capital for another month. Initially it was introduced on 3 January this year during the well-known events in Tbilisi.

Parliamentary Elections Scheduled for 11 Oct

OW3004204492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1817 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's State Council has decided parliamentary elections will be held in the republic under a multimandate proportional system on October 11. The date of municipal elections will be specified later.

The Chairman of Georgia's Committee on Human Rights and Interethnic Relations Sandro Kavsadze briefed the Council on the situation in southern Ossetia. The Council's Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze stressed the conflict between the Georgian and Ossetian communities must be settled by non-violent means. Russia and Northern Ossetia, he said, would apparently have to play a role in settling it.

Shevardnadze Describes Economy as 'Catastrophe'

LD0105090992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1445 GMT
26 Apr 91

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A catastrophe is how Eduard Shevardnadze assesses the state of the Georgian economy. He reports that the state budget deficit is 7 billion rubles to date and the trend is actively rising. Georgia has two main sources of revenue: the light and food industries. In Eduard Shevardnadze's view they are, to date, in a state of total recession. The chairman of the Georgian Union of Entrepreneurs has stated that the crisis is caused by the government's incompetent economic policy. According to several businessmen, the 28 percent value added tax and the practice of export licensing are resulting in the public purse being drained and officials growing rich.

Tskhinvali Units Attacked 3 Times in Last Week

PM3004151992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT
29 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by N. Gongadze]

[Text] [Gongadze, over video of helicopters] After the withdrawal of Russia's internal troops from Tskhinvali, units of the Transcaucasian Military District remain stationed here. There are helicopter and engineer regiments: Their function is to ensure the inviolability of the external borders of the Transcaucasus. Although they are remaining neutral in the conflict, they came under armed attack three times last week alone.

[S.U. Beppayev, deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District] After the attacks and the brutal murder of a sentry on duty, we ordered the unconditional use of weapons against all attackers. After the latest attack by three men on the army camp, one was killed and the other two detained; all were of Ossetian nationality. There are two aims here. The first and main one is political: It is to inflame the situation even further in this explosive region, while the second, apparently more mundane, is to get hold of weapons.

[Gongadze] The federation of mountain peoples has issued a statement on introducing their own armed detachments into the region. Can you comment on that?

[Beppayev] We are neutral forces here with responsibility for the external security of the republic and naturally we are against such phenomena, but if that is how things develop we will be forced to oppose such actions. [video shows external and internal views of helicopters, interview against backdrop of more helicopters]

Government Withdraws Troops

LD3004185892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1513 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—The State Council and the provisional government of Georgia called on the Ossetian and Georgian peoples to demonstrate their traditional patience and wisdom by not reacting to provocations.

The statement, published on April 28 by the Georgian mass media, says that in December 1990 a curfew was introduced in Tskhinvali and on the decision of the authorities in power at that time the USSR Interior Ministry special security forces received an order to implement it. The decision aggravated the already tense relations between Georgian and Ossetians still more. Legalizing the actions of the Armed Forces of an alien country in the zone of conflict sharply reduced the power of the Georgian government and amounted to complete disregard of the country's law. Chaos and lawlessness were the logical consequences of that decision. By now over 450 people have been killed on both sides, hundreds of people have been wounded, and dozens are reported missing, nearly 5 thousand residential houses have been burnt or ruined, and thousands have become refugees.... Now that the Russian security forces have left the area of conflict Georgians and Ossetians find themselves facing each other. The withdrawal of a Russian special security unit on April 25 from the Tskhinvali region has been taken by the Georgian society as a step towards civil peace and consensus. However, it seems strange that a Moscow TV news agency keeps disseminating allegations that there can be no peaceful development in the region, that the Tskhinvali guards are already under oath, that the Ossetians residing in the region are prepared to fight, and that the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples will send an armed force if Georgia refuses to acknowledge that somebody called somebody else a Moscow agent, etc.

The statement emphasizes that the Georgian people and the government will do everything in their power to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Defense Minister on Proposed Structure of Army

PM3004202492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
30 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Besik Urigashvili: "Georgia Is Forming Its Own Army"]

[Text] Tbilisi—After a 200-year gap the Georgian state is embarking on the organizational development of full armed forces. The general outlines of this development have been sketched out: Georgia's Armed Forces will consist of 20,000 men and will be made up of ground, naval, air, and border subunits. These will be manned according to a mixed contract and draft system. The length of service for conscripts will be 18 months.

According to Georgian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Levan Sharashenidze, the main difficulties at this stage are the lack of an appropriate legal and juridical base stemming from the provisional nature of the country's administrative structures, the shortage of qualified cadres, and the grave economic situation in the republic. The Cabinet of Ministers has yet to allocate funds for army development. According to the most conservative calculations defense expenditure will amount to some 6 billion rubles.

Speaking about officer cadres, Sharashenidze noted that under an accord with representatives of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Staff, officers originally from Georgia who wish to serve in the Georgian Army will be able to return home without hindrance.

As Sharashenidze stated, Georgia certainly lays claim to part of the Black Sea Fleet of the former USSR, and also to the arms and property of part of the CIS Joint Armed Forces stationed on Georgian territory. But, the general noted, these questions will be resolved by civilized methods through talks among all the interested parties.

Sharashenidze described relations with the Transcaucasus Military District command as smooth, business-like, and even, in many ways, as relations between partners. He said that at this stage the Georgian side is not insisting on the withdrawal of the district's troops from Georgian territory, and that this is a lengthy process and should be the result of an intergovernmental treaty between Russia and Georgia. Sharashenidze does not rule out the possibility of bringing in specialists from the military district as consultants and advisers to the Georgian Army.

The defense minister briefly sketched the structure of the future Georgian Army. The main combat units are to be mechanized brigades consisting of mechanized and tank battalions [batalyonov] and artillery battalions [divizionov]. A brigade will number approximately 1,500 men. The brigades will subsequently be combined to form two corps. One will be stationed in East Georgia, the other in West Georgia. The border forces will number around 500 men.

On the subject of the existing armed formations, it was stated that they will become structurally subordinate to the Defense Ministry. The National Guard will be transformed into a special rapid reaction subunit. The situation with "Mkhedrioni" is more difficult. According to Sharashenidze, an accord has been reached with this armed organization's leader Jaba Ioseliani, deputy chairman of the State Council, to the effect that "Mkhedrioni" will become part of the regular Georgian Army, as a separate subunit.

The Georgian Army's military doctrine will be formulated in accordance with whatever policy is implemented by the parliament which is elected in the fall and by the legitimate government. It is in Georgia's interests not to join any military-political alliances or blocs, but to adhere to a policy of active neutrality.

Ossetians Prepare For Tripartite Talks

LD3004220392 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1035 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, April 30 TASS—Georgia has to recognise South Ossetian republic, military activities in the region should be stopped and transport blockade lifted. Only on these conditions could Georgian-Ossetian relations be normalised, North Ossetian Parliamentary Speaker Akhsarbek Galazov told TASS on Thursday [30 April] after a meeting of experts of South and North Ossetia who worked out a joint approach to tripartite talks of the two Ossetias and Georgia.

Experts agreed that the problem of the armed conflict in South Ossetia can be stopped only by means of mutual compromise and constructive negotiations.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Disrupt Congress

LD3004190392 Moscow *POSTFACTUM in English*
1513 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Sukhumi—On April 29 supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia disrupted the work of the congress of Georgian regional political and public organizations. The initiators of the congress—the regional branches of the National-Democratic Party of Georgia, the Georgian Party of National Revival, the Helsinki Union and others, had intended to discuss the situation in the autonomous republic in view of the current parliamentary crisis and work out a joint program of actions. The supporters of the former president picketed the entrance to the local drama theatre where the congress was to take place. The militia did not interfere. Gamsakhurdia supporters held their own meeting in the building. The initiators of the congress held a press conference in a city tourist centre.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Hold Rally in Tbilisi

LD3004190492 Moscow *POSTFACTUM in English*
1513 GMT 30 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—On April 29, supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia held a rally demanding the resignation of the provisional government. The protesters gathered in the yard of the house of a key figure of the Georgian National-Liberation Movement, Mirab Kostava, who had lived there prior to his death in a car accident. They demanded that Gamsakhurdia return to the presidential post, and declared they would hold similar rallies every Wednesday.

Passports Not To Carry Owner's Nationality

LD2904194392 Moscow *POSTFACTUM in English*
1429 GMT 29 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—One million new passports ordered by Georgia in France will be used for foreign trips and the passport owner's nationality will not be indicated in the new document. At its session on April 28, the Georgian State Council decided to make only one signature in these passports: The citizen of the Republic of Georgia. Five million plastic identification cards for domestic use, which were also ordered in France, will feature the nationality of the citizen of the sovereign republic. The State Council also discussed the draft decrees on national minorities and refugees and adopted the first reading of the decree on the republic's public prosecutor's office. The State Council recognized the legislative acts and resolutions that were adopted by the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet lately as being at odds with the laws and the constitution of Georgia and the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic.

The State Council heard information by its commission about the conflict between Meskhetian Turks and Cossacks in Krasnodar territory. The state council deemed it expedient to tackle the problem of Meskhetian Turks, who were deported from Georgia during the great patriotic war, and to involve other countries, specifically Russia and Turkey in solving this problem. The State Council failed this time to set the date and define the system of forthcoming parliamentary elections. It decided to devote a special session to this issue on April 30.

Lithuania

New Russian Military Contingency Protested

*LD3004211792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Egidijus Bickauskas, provisional charge d'affairs of the Republic of Lithuania in Russia, visited the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning, where he met Mr. Fokin, head of the Second European Department. Egidijus Bickauskas handed over a note from the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs protesting the arrival of a new contingency of troops in Lithuania.

The head of the Lithuanian diplomatic mission noted that such unilateral actions between two sovereign states are impossible, that (?looking from the side) one has the impression that Russia is trying to complicate the negotiations on the withdrawal of its troops. A demand was made to urgently withdraw the new military contingency from the territory of Lithuania.

Accepting the note, Mr. Fokin promised to inform the Russian leadership and to give an official answer.

[Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English at 2130 GMT adds the following: "The Lithuanian Deputy Minister of National Defense Norbertas Vidrinskas has announced that commanders of the Lithuanian-based military units of the Commonwealth of Independent States had been given a warning of legal responsibility if the Lithuanian airspace continued to be violated. A few days ago, the Lithuanian authorities banned flights of CIS helicopters in Lithuanian territory because they were being used to bring in new troops, defying all protests of Lithuania. The deputy minister of national defense said to the RESPUBLIKA daily that apart from legal [measures], other measures would be taken against the unlawful flights. He did not specify what the measures would be, but assured that helicopters were not going to be shot down."]

Landsbergis Warns CIS Units

*LD3004214892 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Yesterday several foreign radio stations flashed an announcement by Lithuanian leader Landsbergis that Russia has dispatched new army subunits to Lithuania and that they are being landed at two airfields. He described this as an invasion.

Today it became known that CIS units have been warned that measures will be taken against illegal flights by the Russian Air Force. The Lithuanian authorities have assured the public of one thing—that Russian helicopters will not be shot down.

Vagnorius on Summer Elections, Parliament

*LD0105055692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International
Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] Speaking on Lithuanian Radio today, Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius urged political and public organizations to make a resolute suggestion that elections to Seimas or Parliament and the presidential elections should be held at the end of the summer at the same time, and not in stages.

He called on the people and deputies to support this proposal. The prime minister argued that the present Supreme Council, which had won Lithuania's independence with the support of the Lithuanian people, must not become the Supreme Council which also lost its independence.

He claimed that the present parliament cannot work constructively any more, as destructive forces in it have taken over the initiative. So it is time to make up your mind, he said.

In the opinion of the prime minister, the losses would be smaller if elections were held in late summer, as compared to losses if the elections come in autumn or winter when, because of political or economic solutions forced on us from outside, we will be in a more difficult position.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Venezuela

*LD0105085392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International
Service in Lithuanian 0100 GMT 26 Apr 92*

[Text] This Wednesday [22 April], a communique was signed, in New York by Anicetas Simutis, the Lithuanian ambassador to the United Nations, and Diego Aria, the Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations, establishing diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Venezuela.

The diplomatic relations will be considered as having been initiated from 10 February when the foreign ministers of Lithuania and Venezuela exchanged notes via correspondence.

Vytautas Dambrava, who several months ago was appointed Lithuania's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Caracas, represents Lithuania in Venezuela.